Thursday, March 22, 2012 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 165 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DREAMERS to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR Kindergarten pupils of Jesus de la Pura Day Care Center in Marikina City rehearse for their graduation rites on Wednesday. Thousands of elementary, high school and college students all over the country will be marching this month to receive their diplomas to the delight of their parents and guardians. STORY, PHOTO ON P2

SC clears CJ in PAL case

Buses, taxis also seek fare increase

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon
and Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

AFTER the government approved a provisional 50-centavo fare increase in jeepney fares, can higher bus and taxi fares be far behind?

Bus and taxi operators are seeking fare increases because of soaring prices of petroleum products, an official of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said on Wednesday.

The new minimum jeepney fare of P8.50 became effective

BUSES / A-5

Confusion marks first day fare hike / A16

Give P-Noy a break, Jojo tells activists

By Jerry E. Esplanada
and Christine O. Avendaño

LET'S give President Aquino a break, Vice President Jejomar Binay yesterday told student activists behind the new form of protest called "Meyrowing."

"Stop targeting our President ... Can you imagine the President

GIVE / A11

GERMAN VISITORS Though they were not on the President's schedule for the day, the "2012 Team Philippines-Germany" delegation is received by President Aquino in Malacañang on Wednesday. They are here for a wedding exploratory investment mission on economic policies under the Aquino administration. The delegation was accompanied by Philippine Ambassador to Germany Maria Cleofe Natividad (center). (See story on Page A11.)

Defense, prosecution agree on 21 properties

By Christian V. Esguerra

AFTER 33 days of trial, the defense and the prosecution panels finally agreed that only 21—not 45—purported properties of Chief Justice Renato Corona would be the subject of dispute in his impeachment trial.

Confusion over how many properties Corona and his family actually owned can be traced to a list provided by the Land Registration Authority (LRA) upon the request of Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., the lead House prosecutor.

Based on the letter from LRA Administrator Eulalio Diaz III dated Jan. 30, Tupas and his fellow prosecutors held press conferences accusing Corona of owning 45 properties, suggesting that his earnings in the government could not have allowed him to afford all of them.

Corona's counsels and the prosecution lawyers yesterday signaled before the impeachment court that 17 of the titles included on the LRA list were all "canceled titles."

DEFENSE A-6

Corona did no wrong, says court

By Jerome Aning

THE SUPREME Court has cleared Chief Justice Renato Corona of wrongdoing in the recall of the tribunal's controversial decision on a labor case filed by the Flight Attendants and Stewards Association of the Philippines (Fasap).

The Fasap case was cited as one of the court's "flip-flopping" decisions allowed by Corona and made a ground for his impeachment for culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust.

In a 30-page resolution dated March 13 but released only yesterday, the court, voting 7-2, ordered the recalling of the case after dismissing the allegations of impropriety over the tribunal's entertaining four letters from Philippine Airlines lawyer

SUPREME A-6

Loren, Chiz lead 2013 Senate race, poll shows

IF THE SENATORIAL elections were held this month, all six reelectionist senators would win the race, according to results of a nationwide survey by Pulse Asia.

The survey, conducted from Feb. 26 to March 9, showed Sen. Loren Legarda regaining the No. 1 spot previously held by Sen. Francis Escudero in the November 2011 survey by the same polling firm.

Legarda was the choice of 58.5 percent of 1,200 respondents, while Escudero ranked second with 52.7 percent.

"Salamat sa Diyos at salamat po (Thank you Lord and thank you)," Legarda said.

A copy of Pulse Asia's table, titled "2013 Elections: Senatorial Preferences," was obtained

LOREN / A13

PH urges North Korea to abandon rocket launch

By Jerry Esplanada

THE PHILIPPINES yesterday urged North Korea to abandon its plan to launch a long-range rocket next month, joining a growing list of nations that have condemned Pyongyang's move.

According to Pyongyang, the first stage of the rocket was expected to fall in international waters about 140 kilometers off the South Korean west coast, while the second stage was projected to splash down 190 km off the Philippine north coast.

North Korea has said the

PHILIPPINES A-11

Obama to visit world's most heavily fortified border / A11

NEWS
Palace gives aviation execs a year to improve air safety / A5

METRO
Tribune newsman links attacker to Pasig cops / A19

BUSINESS
Gov't budget deficit reached P168 in Jan. / B1

NEWS
P-Noy welcomes more US troops, but not permanently / A2

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Manila
Dagupan	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Aparri	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Basco	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Virac	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Catarman	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Iloilo	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Cuyo	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Tagbilaran	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Dumaguete	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Surigao	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Butuan	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Iligan	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
General Santos	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain
Cotabato	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy with Rain

6/29 — 6 15 — 8 31 — 19 38

SUPER 6/49 — 8 7 9 — 8 0 0 — 6 5 8

FOUR DIGIT — 9 8 2 9

MEGA 6/45 — 5 14 23 25 31 35 — P16,826,643.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO — 7 10 13 35 48 46 — P20,000,000.00

LOTTO 3D/2D Text 2D LOTTO, send to 4443. P1.50/short

More US troops welcome–P-Noy

PRESIDENT Aquino said yesterday more US troops would be welcome to rotate through the country, but ruled out permanent bases.

Mr. Aquino told Agence France Presse in an interview that talks were under way for the longtime allies to hold more military training exercises in the Philippines, as well as to enhance the numbers of times their US navy ships visited.

"We are talking with them. We will have more of the same, is what I am trying to say" Mr. Aquino said, referring to a longstanding partnership that saw together joint exercises and US port calls in the Philippines.

"Their ships can come and call on us, can be replenished, find our Constabulary still and all for our permanent berthing here to stay focus.

"There might be increases in terms of personnel, but it will have to be very close on where they come in and go out. They cannot be here permanently."

The negotiations come while the United States is expanding its military presence in the Asia Pacific as a counterweight to rising China, having bolstered a deal last year with Australia to place more troops there.

It is also expanding to station several combat ships in Singapore and step up deployments to Thailand, the close ally with several agreements, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, wrote in December.

Mr. Aquino said the Philippines was also looking to the United States for help in building up its defense capabilities, amid a maritime territorial dispute with China that flared last year and a host of other security issues.

The Philippines had asked the United States to fly US fighter jets, as well as patrol vessels, transport aircraft and radar systems, according to the President.

"They are still studying the request for the exact F-16s. We are hoping they will look at it favorably," he said.

Mr. Aquino said fighter jets were a top priority for the Philippines, which has one of the most poorly-equipped militaries in the region, because the country has none.

"From nothing to one is a significant leap. I am told we can assemble two squadrons (24 aircraft)," Aquino emphasized there were many reasons the Philippines needed to increase its military capabilities, including combating terrorism, helping deal with natural disasters and overseeing Filipino overseas workers.

But he also talked in depth about the Philippines needing to protect its rights to parts of the South China Sea that are within its 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone and are believed to sit atop vast oil and gas deposits.

China and Taiwan also claim these areas as theirs, even though their continental borders are much closer to Philippine landmasses than Chinese.

Diplomatic tensions escalated last year when the Philippines accused China of harassing a Philippine seismological exploration vessel in one of the disputed areas called Reed Bank, and of other bullying tactics.

Philippine concerns that China's perceived aggressiveness prompted it to seek help from the United States in building up its maritime defense capabilities...**AFP**

REMINDER: FIRE PREVENTION MONTH
THE BEST PRECAUTION
FLAMESHIELD FIRE RETARDANT

TESTED, PROVEN AND CERTIFIED...
Prevents spread of flame on wood doors, ceilings and walls. Also fabric curtains, carpets & furniture of upholstery.
Non-toxic. Water based.

956.9°C
TEMPERATURE TEST
for more than two (2) hours of exposure

Destiny

Pagasa warns of slides, floods in Bicol, Visayas

THE WEATHER bureau yesterday warned people of widespread rain over the Bicol Region and Visayas, which may bring landslides and flashfloods, in a two-pronged area chosen off Puerto Princesa City in Palawan.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, the low-pressure area was 220 kilometers southeast of Puerto Princesa, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

People said to be at risk of low-lying areas and along mountains slopes should be on their guard for flashfloods and landslides triggered by rain.

Southern Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao would experience cloudy skies with scattered showers and thunderstorms, it said. The rest of the country would be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Coastal waters throughout the archipelago would be moderate to rough, it added. **Julia E. Schwarz**

Senate defers anti-laundering act amendments

By Cathy Yamsuan

THE SENATE yesterday deferred the approval of proposed amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) after some lawmakers questioned the provisions under which the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) could share information with other law enforcement agencies.

Although the amendments are needed to keep the Philippines off an international financial blacklist, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano reminded that the Anti-Council and the Bureau of Internal Revenue first explain why they cannot freely exchange "on an ex-parte basis information for bank accounts of suspected money launderers."

Through questioning, Enrile was able to elicit an admission from Sen. Serfino Estrogenio III that Amlac and the BIR "conduct joint efforts" to pin down suspected tax evaders.

Predicate crime

Enrile questioned whether tax evasion was a predicate crime for money laundering that would allow Amlac to participate in such investigations.

Enrile took note of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between Amlac and the BIR "to look into bank accounts of taxpayers."

"Is tax evasion a predicate crime for money laundering? Why is there a need for a MOA?" the Senate President asked.

He warned that only Congress, through a legislative act, could include tax evasion as a predicate crime that would warrant investigation should the suspicion of money laundering arise.

Congress mandate

"It's a mandate of Congress, not of bureaucrats," he noted.

Estrogenio clarified that the MOA only allows the two agencies to "share financial data."

The exchange prompted Arroyo to suggest that the Senate withdraw the proposed amendments "more carefully."

"The BIR is the agency that collects taxes, audits and conducts investigations. But the Amlac does not say that tax evasion is a predicate crime," Arroyo noted.

"If the BIR prosecutes individuals for tax evasion and is empowered to obtain any information on business and income of persons subject to investigation with cooperation from banks, we have to go over this once more carefully," he warned.

Enrile suggested that BIR commissioner Kim Henares and Amlac executive director Vivien Aquino first clarify these issues with the Senate before it approves the amendments.

Pressure on Senate

Pressure on the Senate to approve amendments to the AMLA law emerges from a demand from the international Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for country support to the effort to track down transnational terrorist financing.

These include an expansion of country lists of predicate crimes for money laundering, a Terrorist Financing Suppression Bill, and the institution of an ex parte provision in the appropriate trust allowing investigators to scrutinize bank deposits without informing a suspected launderer.

The FATF will hold a plenary session in June. The international body is threatening to include the Philippines in its Blacklist should President Aquino fail to sign the amendments into law.

At present, the Philippines is in the FATF's "dark grey list" after its failure to enact the amendments last December, Estrogenio warned.

Also yesterday, Enrile challenged Estrogenio to reaffirm whether other countries in the FATF's so-called dark grey list were being pressured to conform to its demands.

"Are we the only one not complying?" Enrile asked.

Estrogenio said other countries being given the opportunity to amend their laws before the FATF plenary in June include Bolivia, Vietnam, Yemen, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Tajikistan and Trinidad and Tobago.

P-Noy taps partymate as adviser on Muslims

PRESIDENT Aquino has appointed a leading member of the Liberal Party's executive committee as a government peacemaker in the 2013 national elections.

Mr. Aquino has appointed Senate Bureau Lao as Presidential Assistant for Muslim Concerns in the Office of President Aquino. Bureau Lao...

Dynamic Infrastructure Services

OWN YOUR CLOUD

Finally, a cost-effective plug-and-play private cloud solution

Globe Telecom delivers another innovative ICT solution with Dynamic Infrastructure Services (DIS), the company's latest addition to its portfolio of cloud computing solutions. A first in the Philippines, DIS reduces the complexity of cloud computing by leveraging pre-configured and fully-tested components so enterprises can build private cloud at a lower cost. Customers who avail of DIS can easily scale their capacity, depending on their business needs, without requiring any additional CAPEX.

Development Tools

DIS is optimized for delivering web-based applications. It prioritizes traffic, offloads network processing and increases reliability. Further, DIS also has the benefits of platform-as-a-service due to its development tools. Hence, companies now have the capability to develop their own applications for their specific requirements. Access to these tools also provides users another layer of flexibility given that they can create, debug and maintain their own sets of applications in their network.

Compute and Storage Solutions

When enterprises implement DIS, they get more than IT resources. This means that development teams can rapidly provision fault-tolerant and scalable compute and storage resources and a company's IT staff can maintain control and foster consistency and compliance within their network.

Experience Dynamic Infrastructure Services and find out more about Globe Business products and services by calling +6321730-1000. You may also email customersupport@globebusiness.com.ph or visit www.globe.com.ph/business.

CLOUDSOLUTIONS™

I.T. ON DEMAND

Solutions that fit.

Globe Business

© 2012 Globe Telecom, Inc.

GRAFT CASE FROM 'PORK'

Acosta asks court to dump aunt as state witness

By Lelia B. Salaverria

PROVINCIAL adviser and Laguna Lake Development Authority chief Noemi Acosta has asked the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division to deny the prosecution's plea to take in his aunt Nenita Bornilos as a state witness and to discharge her as an accused in their graft case.

In his opposition to the prosecution's plea, Acosta said the prosecution's move came too late and it had no factual and legal basis. It shows Bornilos's and her family's attempt to elude him, he said, and also shows that the prosecution does not have enough evidence to convict him.

Bornilos's proposed testimony is "immaterial, irrelevant, and impertinent to the issues for resolution" in his case, Acosta said.

Acosta and Bornilos were charged with graft in connection with allegedly improper release of P32.3 million in financial assistance from Acosta's Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) or pork barrel to the Bukidnon Integrated Resource Development Foundation Inc. (BuRDI), a nongovernment organization where Bornilos was the project coordinator, in the term of the transaction in 2005, Acosta says. She Bukidnon representative in Congress.

Last year, Bornilos sought to become a state witness, a move that the Office of the Ombudsman approved.

The Ombudsman's Office of the Special Prosecutor said Bornilos could testify on Acosta's actual participation in the operations of BuRDI, including the identification of projects, determination of sources of funds and donor and selection of the beneficiaries.

The OSP also said Bornilos could take the stand on Acosta's alleged plan to use BuRDI as a springboard to address his political base and to cater to the ill-

ACOSTA

fated needs of his constituents and paymasters to ensure his reelection.

In his opposition, Acosta said the information that Bornilos provided in her application to become state witness were beyond what was stated in the charge sheet against them, and admitting her testimony would violate his constitutional rights.

One of the things he questioned was Bornilos's claim that while he was serve as officer of BuRDI, he was actually in Jessica and Chad do-it-on studies. He said the purported handwritten memos that Bornilos produced to support her assertion had no basis.

He denied that the notes were his, and said the notes were irrelevant even if they were really his. He pointed out that the memos were dated 2002 and 2007, but the acts he was accused of committing took place in 2001 and 2002.

Bornilos also contracted others to do work that took place after 2001 and 2002, and these therefore had no bearing on the case, Acosta said.

As for Bornilos's allegations that he planned to use BuRDI for his political ambitions and to help his constituents and allies, Acosta said these were also irrelevant.

He pointed out that he was not being charged for any election offense or for using BuRDI for politics.

Try the Smallest Hearing Aid for FREE

- Small-size hearing aid for all degree of hearing loss
- Natural Sound and comfortable to wear

FREE HEARING TEST
Until March 31, 2012

Now available at

Lucky Chinatown Mall

MANILA HEARING AID

Third Floor (beside Wyeth Store) Lucky Chinatown Mall: Reina Regente St., cor. Dela Reina Street, Binondo-Manila

Army commander testifies he was warned of massacre

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE FORMER commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command yesterday admitted that there were intelligence reports on the possible involvement of some members of the local police in a plan to kill Esmael "Toto" Mangudadatu if he dared to challenge the Ampatuan clan's political supremacy in Maguindanao in 2009.

Retired Lt. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer also told a Quezon City trial court yesterday that Mangudadatu, then Buluan vice mayor, had called him "several times" on the morning of Nov. 23, 2009 to ask for a security back-up as he intended to file his candidacy that day for the province's gubernatorial race.

Taking the witness stand at the Maguindanao massacre trial, Ferrer said he was in Manila to attend a meeting as he relayed the request to Western Mindanao Command Gen. Alfredo Capion, who had replied that the security request was out of "regular course."

Ferrer told Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes that when he received new messages by members of the reported abduction of the Mangudadatus convoy, he immediately ordered his men to confirm the reports, adding that he feared those abducted might end up dead. Mangudadatu, who had just joined the convoy, had also sent Ferrer text messages telling him of the looming convoy ambush by the vice mayor's wife and sisters.

'They might be dead'

Recalling his phone conversation with a panicky-sounding Mangudadatu, Ferrer said: "I instructed him to locate the people abducted... I told him, if we cannot find them, they might be killed."

Asked by private prosecutor Prima Jesusa Quintanilla why he feared the abducted people may be killed, the officer replied that he had access to the intelligence community of the Maguindanao-based 6th Infantry Division. "I had knowledge of the reputation of the Ampatuans... We had information and intelligence reports of a plan against Toto Mangudadatu regarding his filing of candidacy papers," he said.

Ferrer said the junior officer informed him at around 3 p.m. that they had found five vehicles in Barangay Sultran and dead bodies strewn all over.

"My impression was, it was already a crime scene, to preserve the crime scene by securing it. Do not allow anyone, particularly members of the Maguindanao police, until we get clearance and coordinate with other police agencies," Ferrer told the court.

Members of the Ampatuan clan led by Andal Ampatuan are now among 196 accused facing charges stemming massacre of the Maguindanao police force—for the murder of Mangudadatu's wife Genalin and 56 others in the convoy. At least 58 of the dead were media representatives.

Judges on leave

According to reports, the convoy was waylaid at the junction of Ampatuan's town by some 100 armed men, allegedly led by Andal Jr. The passengers were taken to an upland grassy spot and gunned down.

In the following days, Ferrer said "there were attempts to hide" Andal Jr., the primary suspect.

They had difficulty securing arrest and search warrants as they could not locate any judge in Maguindanao and Cotabato City to sign the orders, he added.

"Based on feedback from the PNP elements, the judges had gone on leave," he said.

Andal Jr., who was eventually taken into custody on Nov. 26, had to be flown to General Santos City via helicopter for inquest proceedings.

The trial became there was no one at the provincial capitol to oversee the inquest proceedings that day.

This prompted the military hierarchy to redeploy two military units from barangays to Maguindanao.

On Dec. 4, 2009, martial law was declared in Maguindanao. Fewer cars doing travel and transport.

"There was a breakdown of local government in Maguindanao and we had to deploy additional troops to ensure peace and order," Ferrer explained.

As martial law administrator in the province, Ferrer said he issued orders "to effect the arrest of the primary suspects" in the massacre.

Palace gives aviation execs a year to improve air safety

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG on Wednesday indicated that there may be a need to review the performance of officials of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) in the wake of the number of problems that still need to be solved before the country can regain its Category One status in aviation safety.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently found 23 "critical elements" that the CAAP needs to solve before the country can shed its Category Two rating given five years ago because of a failure to comply with world safety standards.

President Aquino gave the CAAP a year to improve safety measures in the country's airports.

"We are always concerned, especially [as] we are promoting tourism as one of our growth sectors, and [we] would like to [remove] also the markers in Europe... because ...

our tourist revenue is from promoting fully our tourism industry," said Secretary Edwin Lacierda, President Aquino's spokesperson, in a news briefing in Malacañang yesterday.

"And so therefore we are concerned about accelerating the efforts to remove us out of Category Two status," he added.

Asked if there was a need to review the performance of CAAP officials given the FAA findings, Lacierda said, "I think that's the reason why there's a one year deadline given."

He said, however, that he would confer with the President on the one-year deadline and its implications on the performance of CAAP officials in the wake of the US agency's findings.

CAAP Director General Ramon Gutierrez said the FAA conducted a technical review of the country's aviation standards from Jan. 23 to 27.

"The issues encountered during the technical review were relatively minor issues, and are now being addressed by the agency," Gutierrez said on Monday.

CCTV Security Systems
Complete Video Homes & Offices from ₱12,000
CALL NOW!

idec
Split Type Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-₱16,500
INVERTER SERIES
FREE INSTALLATION

JED'S ISLAND RESORT
The Largest Resort in Bataan
Where Fun Never Stops!
NOW OPEN

Congratulations Phil Younghusband for the AFC Challenge Cup Golden Boot Award
TAKE THIS
and feel the difference!
ARONAMIN GOLD.
ACTIVATE LIFE.

SLIMMERS WORLD
BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!
Make-over your body this 2012!
"I lost 96 lbs. of fat and cellulite!"
BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!
PLUS! Personal Training and all the Latest Aerobics!
SPECIAL OFFER
FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!
CORE POWER+ BIOMETRICS with GREAT SKIN
"I gained 30 lbs. & a knock-out body!"
-Dr. Ravi Samedra
BEFORE: 200 lbs.
- Marilyn Luna
40 yrs. old, Mother
Great Bodies 2011 Runner-Up
"All our full programmes are guaranteed!"
CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION!
NO MONTHLY DUES ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!
NO JOINING FEES!
CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%
MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS
ADVANCED C.O.R.E. Shape
Get a slim & sexy body with a great skin in just 30 minutes!
CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.
FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091- SLIMMERS (75466377)
www.slimmersworld.com.ph • inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

BUYING!!!

GOLD ☆ SILVER ☆ PLATINUM

5 DAY BUYING EVENT!

10AM-6:00PM T-F & 10AM-4PM SAT.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH - SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA

AYALA AVENUE CORNER MAKATI AVENUE
MAKATI CITY 1200 PHILIPPINES

☆ AMERICA'S MOST TRUSTED GOLD BUYERS ☆

CASH HANDED OUT ON THE SPOT!!!

WE WANT THE 10K – 12K – 14K – 18K
18K – 22K – 24K THAT YOU DON'T!

Gold Bracelets	up to P65,000
Gold Necklaces	up to P113,000
Gold Rings	up to P22,000
Gold Watch Cases	up to P33,000
Gold Watch Bands	up to P49,000
Gold Wedding Bands	up to P15,000
Gold Bangles	up to P37,000
Gold Pendants	up to P13,000
Gold Charm Bracelets	up to P44,000
Gold Charms	up to P13,000
Gold School Rings	up to P22,000
Gold Chains	up to P49,000
Gold Earrings	up to P9,000
Dental Gold	up to P40,000
Gold Scrap	up to P55,000
Gold Nugget Bracelets	up to P115,000
Gold Broken Necklaces	up to P66,000
Gold Pens	up to P17,000
Gold Watches	up to P77,000
Gold Nuggets Rings	up to P39,000
Gold Pocket Watches	up to P53,000
Gold Link Bracelets	up to P113,000
Gold Broken Chains	up to P44,000
Gold Service Awards	up to P22,000
Gold Broken Bracelets	up to P66,000
Gold Cuff Links	up to P13,000
Gold Broken Rings	up to P22,000
Gold Brooches	up to P44,000
Gold Coins	up to P660,000

WE PAY CASH FOR GOLD NOW!

THE LARGEST JEWELRY BUYING EVENT IN THE PHILIPPINES!

NO ONE PAYS MORE!!

SPECIALTY GOLD BUYERS

HIGHEST CASH PRICES FOR GOLD, COINS AND STERLING SILVER!

ANTIQUE STERLING PLATEWARE & SERVICE SETS

Serving Trays	Up to P50,000
Antique Flatwares	Up to P216,000
Flatware Sets	Up to P130,000

US HISTORIC GOLD COINS

Krugerrands, Eagles, Maple Leafs

$1.00 U.S. GOLD	P3,000 to P160,000
$2.50 U.S. GOLD	P3,000 to P200,000
$3.00 U.S. GOLD	P77,000 to P265,000
$5.00 U.S. GOLD	P3,000 to P340,000
$10.00 U.S. GOLD	P9,000 to P520,000
$20.00 U.S. GOLD	P20,000 to P90,000

US HISTORIC SILVER COINS

Morgans, Peace Dollars & more...

$1.00 Silver (1921 & prior)	P350 up to P160,000
50C Silver (1933 & earlier)	P130 up to P66,000
25C Silver (1934 & earlier)	P66 up to P33,000
10C Silver (1934 & earlier)	P22 up to P11,000

We pay for rare coins in Mint State condition.

BUYING ALL DAY!

5 DAY BUYING EVENT!

10:00AM TO 6:00PM TUE-FRI
10:00AM TO 4:00PM SAT

TUESDAY, MARCH 20th	10:00AM-6:00PM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21th	10:00AM-6:00PM
THURSDAY, MARCH 22th	10:00AM-6:00PM
FRIDAY, MARCH 23th	10:00AM-6:00PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 24th	10:00AM-4:00PM

YOUR UNWANTED JEWELRY COULD BE WORTH LOTS OF MONEY!

NEW ☆ OLD ☆ BROKEN
WE BUY ALL!

10% MORE

McDonald's to give 4,000 poor students jobs this summer

By Philip C. Tubeza

POPULAR fast-food chain McDonald's will hire nearly 4,000 poor students for its summer jobs program, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said yesterday.

Baldoz said in a statement that the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and McDonald's are working through the Special Program of Employment for Students (SPES) to offer 3,988 students get summer jobs and support for their studies in the form of financial assistance.

"It's one of 3,988 SPES beneficiaries will get a chance to work with the global fast-food chain," Baldoz said.

Baldoz said she and officials of Golden Arches Development Corp., McDonald's franchise holder in the Philippines, will sign a memorandum of agreement for the SPES on March 28.

The SPES aims to help poor but deserving students to pursue their education by encouraging employment of all qualified high school, college, vocational or technical students, and out-of-school youth with partner companies, Baldoz said.

Under the agreement with McDonald's, SPES beneficiaries will be working for a minimum of four hours in a maximum of eight hours a day, six days a week, and receive salaries not less than the prevailing minimum wage in the region where they will be employed.

Sixty percent of their salaries will be paid in cash by McDonald's and the remaining 40 percent will be in the form of education vouchers issued by the DOLE for the payment of tuition and books in any secondary, tertiary or vocational institutions.

Following the successful pilot testing of the SPES project at 41 McDonald's branches in November and December last year, McDonald's informed Baldoz that the project will be rolled out in all McDonald's branches nationwide.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday - March 15, 2012
4th Week of Lent

1st Reading: Ex 32:7-14

Then Yahweh said to Moses, 'Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have acted disgracefully. They have quickly turned from the way I commanded them and have made for themselves a molten calf; they have bowed down before it and sacrificed to it and said: "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt." And Yahweh said to Moses, 'I see that these people are a stiff-necked people. Now just leave me: the fire must may blaze against them. I will destroy them, but of you, I will make a great nation.'

But Moses calmed the anger of Yahweh, his God, and said, 'Why, O Yahweh, should your anger burn against your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with such great power and with a mighty hand? Let not the Egyptians say: "Yahweh brought them out with evil intent, for he wanted to kill them in the mountains and wipe them from the face of the earth." Let your anger from the heat of your anger and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the promise you yourself swore: I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land I spoke about I will give to them as an everlasting inheritance.' Yahweh then changed his mind and would not yet harm his people.

The Gospel: John 5:31-47

Jesus said to the Jews, 'If I bear witness to myself, my testimony would be worthless. But Another One is bearing witness to me and I know that his testimony is true when he bears witness to me. John also bore witness to the truth when you sent messengers to him, but I do not need such human testimony. I recall this for you, so that you may be saved.

'John was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were willing to enjoy his light. But I have greater evidence than that of John: the works which the Father entrusted to me to carry out. The very works I do bear witness for Father has sent me. Those who listen to me never heard his voice and have never seen his likeness; then, as long as you do not believe his messenger, you cannot believe me.

'You search in the Scriptures thinking that in them you will find life, yet Scripture bears witness to me. But you refuse to come to me, that you may live. I am not seeking human praise, but I know you, and I know you have not real love for God in you. I have come in my Father's name and you do not accept me. If another comes in his own name, you will accept him. So long as you seek praise from one another instead of seeking the glory coming from the only God, how can you believe?

'Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father. Moses himself, in whom you placed your hope, accuses you. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?'

Reflection:

'Liar' is an old word that used to mean 'lure.' Shakespeare used it that it is more often, for example, to lure us as part of his word 'belief.' To believe, then, is to take away, to allow us to get to know that being should be found purely and simply as 'existence' which is entirely attractive, and that no subjective factor should enter it at all. If this were the whole picture, subjective would be the only law of life and computers could handle it much better than we could. But there is a deeper kind of belief from which the human factor can never be expelled: it is belief in persons. It is this that is nevertheless you say: 'I believe in God.'

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2013

Across the NATION

Bet collectors' arrest won't satisfy mayor in war on 'Last Two'

DIGOS CITY—Police here announced the arrest of two cashiers in connection with a campaign to end illegal gambling operations in an effort that the city mayor said fell short of his expectations.

The two suspects, one of them a minor, were arrested after they were caught in the act of collecting bets for Last Two, an illegal numbers racket here that bases its results on the last two digits of winning numbers from the government-run Lotto.

Last Two is popular in Mindanao and winners can take home up to P750 for a P10 winning bet.

Mayor Joseph Pelias was obviously not impressed by the police effort, saying the arrest of suspected bet collectors Alvin Itajiste and the 15-year-old was inconsiderable compared to the extent of operations of illegal gambling syndicates.

Supt. Silimeon de Castilla, city police director, said the two suspected bet collectors, or runners as they are known here, were arrested on Sunday.

He said some of the bettors had been arrested because they fled when they saw the police coming.

The two suspects, De Castilla said, yielded gambling paraphernalia such as bet collection sheets. Charges had been filed against the two, said the police chief.

Mayor Pelias, however, said police have to arrest major players in the illegal gambling network to eradicate illegal gambling.

Last month, the city council passed a resolution ordering police to dismantle betting stations to ensure in the city that included buildings near elementary and schools.

"We need to arrest somebody who is big, a financier," Pelias said.

De Castilla said police have identified suspected financiers of Last Two but renewing them was a different thing. Orlando B. Ebeng, Inquirer Mindanao

P-Noy kin: Luisita no garrison state

By Jaymee Reing in Manila and Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

THE OWNERS of Hacienda Luisita yesterday said there had been no increase in military presence or abuse in the sugar estate, a claim that the military said was supported by certifications from village chiefs and Church leaders in Tarlac, President Aquino's home province.

Reacting to reports that "militarization" was taking place inside the hacienda, Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) spokesperson and lawyer Antonio Ligon said there had been no change to the number of soldiers and police assigned to the estate.

"The number of individuals keeping the hacienda secured has been the same for years," said Ligon in a statement.

"HLI has not asked for any additional military or police forces to keep the peace and order and no voluntary action has been taken by any of the government agencies to address that," he said.

"In short, we think security here is insufficient, but we recognize that the military institution is the correct party to determine and assess the amount of threat present in the area," Ligon said.

Ligon said the report was baseless and was an attempt to influence the outcome of Supreme Court deliberations on a decision that ordered the estate distributed to its farm workers instead of distributing just shares of stock to HLI.

"HLI has repeatedly stated its position that land distribution, at the Supreme Court but even to the uncore but HLI also wants justice for all including 4,000 other farmer beneficiaries who may be disenfranchised," Ligon added. "There is also the issue of just compensation for the estate."

Digital copies of the certifications, sent by e-mail by Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres Jr., head of the 3rd Mechanized Infantry Battalion, attested on two dates that the unit or any of its soldiers did not hurt any residents.

The certifications were dated March 11 to 20, the period when Aquino ng Maghahakad sa Asyenda Luisita clamored for the pullout of troops in villages inside the hacienda.

In similarly worded certifications, Fr. Reinerdy Feliciano and Fr. John Perez, head and assistant head of the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, said they "never heard any untoward incidents, abuses or violations involving the military persons here."

Barangay Captains Noel Pineda (Cutcud), Renato Lising (Balete), Emmanuel Gatang (Antipolo), Edgardo Agustin (Central), Leonardo Galapon (Maquilaoan) Estrella Navarro (Buenlag) and Rodolfo Segun (Sta. Catalina), all in Tarlac City, said the hacienda has no record of abuses or violations.

Their views were shared by the sangguniang kabataan federations (Sankas) Alfonso Macaspac (Buenlag) Manuel Pangilinan (Maliwalo) in Concepcion town and Rolando Duran (Asturias) in La Paz town.

SPECTACLE Residents and lookers-on try to get a better viewing position as fire destroys homes in Barangay Suba in Cebu City where fires, more destructive than this one last March 9, have become common. The Barangay Suba fire destroyed 95 houses. (JOSE MACASO/INQUIRER VISAYAS)

Loggers target Pangasinan's last rainforest

DAGUPAN CITY—Pangasinan's largest remaining rainforest in Mangatarem town is threatened by illegal logging after roads were built deep into the forest for easier hauling of logs, environment officials said.

Lolita Co, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said a team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Mangatarem government and the military inspected the forest last week and discovered illegal logging there.

Co said an unpaved road cutting through the mountains of Mangatarem, which was built without permit from the DENR, made it easier for loggers to enter the area.

Co was referring to a road that traverses the mountain boundary of Pangasinan and Zambales. She quoted reports as saying a resident of Barangay Sinabaan headed the construction of the road's 10 kilometer section in Pangasinan. The road stretches to 30 km.

She said the road zigzagged through heavy timber areas where a straight road would have been built from grasslands in the area.

"Worse, the Department of Public Works and Highways said the project was not programmed, it did not have funding and was not covered by any contract. But it was constructed by [a Mangatarem resident] who claimed to have backing from an official in Zambales," she said.

Co said there was no sense in building the road because there were no economic trading activities between the two provinces.

"Besides, it would be difficult for even 4x4 (off-road) vehicles to pass through that road. Maybe some top, but they no longer return and pass that route again," she said.

From the main survey, the governance inspection team discovered a network of smaller roads and trails that go deeper into the forest. There, the team saw felled trees, stumps and lumber ready for hauling.

But there were no people or logging equipment in the area, which made Co and the other members of the team suspect that illegal loggers were tipped off about their arrival.

"There was a tent inside the thick forest, presumably used by the illegal loggers," she said.

The team of Col. Jesus Barnuevo, commander of the Philippine Army unit based in Binmaley town, helped secure and retrieve logs from the mountains before these could be hauled by illegal loggers.

Co said a military detachment was put up to prevent illegal loggers from removing them.

She said the area where illegal loggers had been operating was part of the 13,865.81-hectare forest of Mangatarem town. The old-growth tropical rainforest comprises 44.7 percent of the town's total land area. It is Bundgamento's largest remaining forest and is considered as an important biodiversity area by the DENR. Yolanda Sotelo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Prober sees signs of foul play in death of OFW in HK

By Felipe P. Celino
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A Filipina domestic help who supposedly committed suicide in Hong Kong may have been a victim of foul play, according to authorities and the Filipina's relatives in Capiz.

Dr. Noel Martinez, of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory in Western Visayas, said he was convinced that Cherry Mae Geneva did not commit suicide as reported by Hong Kong authorities.

According to reports emanating from Hong Kong, Geneva jumped to her death from the 12th floor of the building where she worked.

"If she truly jumped from the 12th floor, her face or feet would be severely injured," said Martinez, who conducted an autopsy on Geneva's body at a morgue in Tapaz, Capiz, last March 19.

Martinez said he found lacerations and bruises on Geneva's body mainly on her back, the shoulders, hips and hands were broken.

Martinez said he also found signs of sexual abuse. "I think she was sexually abused and tortured before she was thrown from the building," said the medico-legal officer.

Geneva's family sought the help of police, refusing to believe that Geneva killed herself.

"We want justice for our beloved that Cherry Mae did not commit suicide," said Geneva's mother, Josita.

Geneva's parents, in an interview, said they were preparing letters to appeal for help from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the provincial government here.

The family also urged overseas Filipino workers in Hong Kong to rally behind the search for justice for Geneva.

Geneva's remains arrived in Capiz last week.

Her relatives were expecting Geneva to come home in May for the blessing of the family house that Geneva was building.

Actor starts making presence felt in Camarines Sur

Aga Muhlach's registration as voter seen as preparation for polls

By Joan Bacardo Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

STAR couple Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales at the Camsur Watersports Complex during a party hosted by Gov. Luis Raymund "Lray" Villafuerte following Muhlach's registration as a voter in the fourth district of Camarines Sur

NAGA, Camarines Sur—Aga Muhlach, one of the most crowd-pleasing faces in Philippine showbusiness, ramped a stir in the fourth district of the province after he registered as a voter there last Monday.

At dinner hosted by the governor, Luis Raymund "Lray" Villafuerte, Muhlach said while he registered as a voter in San Jose, Camarines Sur, he was hedging more on whether or not he was running for a seat in the House to represent the province's fourth district, long held by the Fuentebella clan.

The dinner hosted for Muhlach, however, had all the trimmings of a political event. Aside from the governor, Vice Gov. Fortunato Peña and other local officials were present.

The country's election laws require candidates to be registered voters and residents for at least six months of the place where they would seek election to public office.

Muhlach said his father, who belonged to the Amadeo and Borja clans, owners with roots in the towns of Goa and San Jose.

The actor said he had been visiting San Jose since he was young to bond with his relatives.

Last month, Muhlach and Vil-

lafuerte stood as sponsors for 118 couples during a mass wedding in San Jose. On Monday, Muhlach again stood as godfather of 500 babies baptized in a church in the town before he proceeded to register as voter and resident of the town.

A source, who declined to be identified for lack of authority to speak on the matter, said Muhlach was also building a house in San Jose to establish residence there.

Deputy Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella is on his last term as representative of the fourth district and Muhlach's appearance spooned the floodgates for speculations that he would seek election to replace Fuentebella.

The Fuentebellas studied 100 years in politics in 2007. The clan keeps a tight hold on the fourth district with the deputy speaker's wife Imelda being mayor of Tiniguy town, his son Arnie being mayor of Tigaon town and a nephew, Emmanuel Fuentebella, being member of the provincial board representing the fourth district.

San Jose, classified by income as second class municipality with an annual income of P30.836 million, 21,471 voters and a population of 35,472, is 29 villages.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

2 views to a mangrove 'massacre'

By Mayrah Erika Lozaño
Calamgan, Batangas
and Kristine L. Alave

WHEN mangrove trees were cut down in Barangay Hukay in Calamgan, Batangas, last month to clear a foreshore area for the construction of a Philippine Air Force (PAF) detachment, militant fishers' groups have cried "massacre."

"The massacre of mangrove trees in Barangay Hukay does not only constitute grave human rights violations. It is also one of the highest forms of environmental destruction, and evil cancer killing of people's livelihood," Fernando Hicap, national chair of Pamalakaya, said in a statement on Monday.

Pamalakaya reported that about 400 mangrove trees covering 1.5 hectares of land were felled by the military and urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to investigate.

The heyenna went to Hukay on Tuesday to check the accounts of the change and found another version.

Benedicto Mendabel, the barangay chair, said more than 50 kalaglag (Avicennia) trees belonging to the mangrove family were cut in a clearing operation which began on Feb. 20, affecting 3,000 square meters of land.

"Ang kalaglag ay isang mangrove na sabog [grows] sa tubig-alat, mayroon ding 'knees,' pero[so] hindi ito kinakain ng daluyan naturally grows near the shore unlike the bakauan which has no prop roots]," said a 60-year-old woman resident, who declined to be named.

"Tatubo pa ang mga 'yan, nandu'n pa ang mga ugat nila [The kalaglag will still grow because the roots are still intact]," she added.

Elliot Mendabel, Cecilia Mendabel and Loreta Encinas, said they do not have bakauan but kalaglag and other trees that grow by themselves and do not need to be planted.

Asked on Tuesday to comment on the differing details of the report, Pamalakaya said it was standing by its account.

In an interview on Monday, Hicap said members of the PAF's 730th Combat Group led by Sgt. Joel Manansan and of the Army's 18th Infantry Battalion led by Sgt. Ryan Gonzales removed the mangrove trees in Hukay on Feb. 21.

Citing local reports, Hicap said 10 soldiers—four from the PAF unit and six from the Army unit—arrived at the village in early February with materials to be used in building a detachment near the mangrove area.

They were prevented from touching the mangroves after local policemen intervened, Pamalakaya said. But on Feb. 21, it said, the soldiers and some 30 construction workers returned and proceeded to cut the mangrove forest covering 1.5 ha of foreshore land.

Hicap said around 400 old trees were destroyed and another 200 new ones were uprooted.

"What happened on Feb. 20-24 is environmental and environmental destruction called into one. Environment[al] Secretary Ramon Paje should look into the nightmare involving men in uniform and the local officials of Calamgan," he said in the statement.

Mendabel, the barangay chair, told the inquirer that he allowed members of the PAF's 730th Combat Group to cut more than 50 kalaglag trees in 1.5 ha property donated by a private individual to the Calamgan municipality. Hukay has a population of 2,352, whose sources of livelihood are fishing and planting of sugarcane and vegetables.

"Kalaglag doesn't serve as a living site for fish since they grow along the shore and not in the water," Elmo Custodio, the municipal environment and natural resources officer, said in another interview.

He records did not show any mangrove trees in Hukay, she said.

Custodio said her office had been focused on the rehabilitation of mangroves in 2011.He he in 17 villages—Bagong Silang, Balo, Bulihan, Bulihis, Dacal, Encarnacion, Guevarrazon, Gulod, Sambungan, Sta. Ana, Talibayoy, Talisay Tunggan, Poblacion 1, Poblacion 2, Poblacion 3 and Poblacion 4.

She said that in cases where mangroves were sacrificed for government projects, three trees must be replanted since these protect the coastal communities from big waves and serve as habitats for fish and other aquatic resources.

The officer recalled massive cutting of mangroves in Calamgan in 1990 and 2001 when the Bantay-Dagat (sea patrol) was created. In 2006, the cutting of mangroves was decreased because of the enforcement of the Calamgan Municipal Fisheries Code, which imposed a ban on mangrove cutting.

In closing the mangrove area in Hukay, Mendabel charged the military with violating Republic Act No. 7161 or the law prohibiting the cutting of mangrove trees, a joint memorandum circular of the DENR and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, RA 6969 (Fisheries Code), DENR Administrative Order 90-159 and Presidential Decree No. 705.

It was not known, however, if a case was formally filed.

"KALAGLAG" trees and stacks were cut in Barangay Hukay in Calamgan, Batangas, to give way for the construction of a Philippine Air Force detachment.

'Gumamela' blooms as economic driver

By Marlon Cinco
Los Baños, Laguna

HOW about a "gumamela"-flavored juice? Science researchers and local government officials expect a budding local economy to blossom from the many colors, sizes and shapes of the gumamela (hibiscus).

"Hibiscus breeding in the Philippines has a very bright future," said Dr. Fidelino Magbalot, an associate professor from the Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

Hibiscus, one of the most popular ornamental plants of all, can even be used for beauty. It is also referred to as the "queen of the Filipino garden."

But aside from being a pedal, it is ornamental plant or a child's concoction for making bubbles from a mixture of water and crushed petals and leaves, researchers are exploring other aspect of the hibiscus, particularly for health and nutrition.

In a September symposium held in Quezon City in February, researchers and producers exhibited different varieties of the hibiscus commonly seen in landscaping.

Ornamental plant breeding in the Philippines was revived back in 2002 but it showed little progress because of low funding as the government had treated many as local security projects, Magbalot said.

"The need for propagating the hibiscus has become popular. With the disaster brought around us, hibiscus has the potential cured for 'green roofs' for high-rise buildings or as ornamentals on barricades," he added.

Most varieties are also edible, he said. For instance, the purple (dark-red) sabdariffa is often used as food purposes and could become a diluted tea-type, jelly or juice as ingredients for confectionaries.

Magbalot said his group planned to breed a "miniature" variety that could be placed in small bottles as souvenir items. Another project, he said, is to breed the plant as a cut flower that could last without refrigerating for two weeks to days.

But former Los Baños City Mayor Cynthia Villar posed a question: "What can do utmost researches and technologies have if we cannot apply them to our daily lives?"

In 2011, the Villar Foundation donated P1.2 million to the IPB for the propagation of 2,000 mother plants of the hibiscus Rosa-sinensis Cynthia A. Villar.

The wife also the UPLB last year named the hibiscus hybrid after Villar who was recognized as the Women in Public Service Awardee for her contribution to the government and the environment. The variety has bright orange petals, coral rose and pinkish hues.

"I thought I should propagate it in Las Piñas on a large scale for beautification [of the city] to help its tourism," Villar said.

On March 8, Villar attended the opening of the 10-meter-wide hibiscus propagation area house in UPLB. The P340,000 facility funded by the Villar Foundation would speed up the propagation of the hibiscus varieties from where existing traditional reproduction to realize the plants, said IPB researcher Agripina Rasco.

The foundation plans to grow and propagate the plant in the city and develop hypothesis that could generate jobs.

"It could be Las Piñas' city flower," Villar said.

The IPB was expected to complete the breeding of the 2,000 mother plants for turnover to the Villar Foundation by the end of the year.

Ikot na! Hayan ang mga kasamahang OFW na maging active member ng SSS.
Para lahat kayo may kanya-kanya lahat proteksiyon.
Marami pang mawala ng maraming pa premyo!

2nd Prize ₱50,000 cash
3rd Prize ₱30,000 cash
Consolation ₱10,000 cash
Special Award ₱50,000 cash
Monthly Raffle

BILIB KAMI SA'YO.

People's Choice
GOLD 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
TRUSTED BRAND 2011
PLATINUM
PILOT
Experience the Ultimate writing reinforcement
V5 & V7 Hi-Tecpoint
PILOT Hi-Tecpoint V5
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. Paredes St., Sampaloc, Manila
PILOT CORPORATION

Supreme Court clears Corona in PAL labor case

From page A1

Evelio Mendoza

Fusap had complained that Mendoza's letters prompted the recall by the court en banc of the Sept. 7, 2011, resolution by the court's Second Division, which had declared void Mendoza's letter dated Sept. 2, 2011, transmitting to PAL if final the reinstatement by PAL of 1,400 Fusap members in 1998 was illegal.

"The recall was made by the court on its own before the ruling's finality pursuant to the court's power of control over its orders and resolutions. Time-to-die process rules were observed," the court held.

Corona inhibited

The high tribunal said Corona had no role in the recall as he had earlier inhibited himself from the case.

The court said Corona "acted only on the recommendation of the ruling division since he penned ponencia in the case long before."

"The resolution on this motion could have been brought about by the Chief Justice's role as the presiding officer of the court en banc, and the fact that the three most senior justices of the court inhibited from participating in the case," it said.

"In the absence of any clear personal malicious participation, it is neither correct nor proper to hold the Chief Justice personally responsible for the collegial action of the court en banc."

Reform Academy Group president, testified last month before the Senate acting as an impartial court. He claimed Corona "modified" in the recall of the resolution that would have decided with finality the 13-year-old labor case.

Proper and legal

In the majority decision penned by Justice Teresita De Castro en banc said in Sept. 7, 2012, resolution "was a proper and legal move to make under the applicable laws and rules, and the indisputable issues of the supervening and circumstances of the case."

Concurring with Castro were Antonio Carpio, Presbitero Velasco Jr., Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, Mariano del Castillo and Martin Villarama Jr.

"While the administrative question involved, the court said the case should not be nullified either by Justices Brion, Abad, Perlas-Bernabe remaining members of the Special Third Division that originally ruled on the case—or that the second motion for reconsideration filed by PAL may be resolved.

The court said the motion involved questions of jurisdiction and interpretation of conflicting provisions of the Internal Rules of the Supreme Court which was complicated by the successive retirement of three justices (in a five-member division), the series of inhibitions in the case, the reorganization of the division, and the timing of Mendoza's letters, made after the division issued its ruling on Sept. 7, 2011, but before the parties received their copies.

Bienvenido Reyes, however, pointed out a "manipulation of the rules," citing Section 4(D), Article VIII of the Constitution, which states that "cases or matters heard by a division shall be decided or resolved with the concurrence of a majority of the members who actually took part in the deliberations on the issues in the case and voted thereon, and in no case without the concurrence of at least three of such members..."

'Flipping'

In her dissent, Sereno said the majority's ruse had "opened a Pandora's box full of horror stories for Philippine judicial decision-making."

She said the majority's ruling "opened for review a decision on the merits that had been unanimously agreed upon and affirmed by at least 10 justices acting in three deliberately constituted divisions of this court for a staggering third time."

"This extreme 'flipping' was prompted not even by a formal motion for reconsideration by the losing party, but by how letters from its counsel addressed not to the court, but only to the clerk of court. The circumstances under which this flipping was made are so curiously strange where the five justices who voted to deny the second motion for reconsideration were not even allowed access to present their promulgated decision from over becoming final," she said.

Sereno said the court en banc should revoke the recall of the Sept. 7, 2011, resolution and reinstate the case to the Second Division, her reinstatement and finality of the ruling that declared the retrenchment illegal.

She said Mendoza's letters should have been simply "noted."

"The recall produced the very effect that the majority find unacceptable in Justice Brion, speaking for the majority, wanted to avoid—flip-flopping on cases decided with finality on account of a prohibited second motion for reconsideration and personal correspondences by a party's counsel. There seem to be many indications of flip-flopping than the subsequent and sudden denial of the petition in the main Fusap case on a second motion for reconsideration, despite the grant of the petitioner's motion, by at least 10 justices," she said.

Fourth review?

Reform Group urged Sereno to file a motion for reconsideration before the finality of the ruling, saying the Second Division's decision "is not yet final."

"If this court is to adhere to its character as a court of last resort, it must stop giving never-ending refuge to parties who obstinately seek to second-guess and re-litigate cases that are now glossed of their counsel's creativity as to labelling a prohibited second motion for reconsideration, or the changing composition of the three divisions of the court, as motions of the court might as well try to rest in the rapid-fire the founding judicial principles of immutability of judgments and res judicata," she said.

Continued from page A1

Corona 'meddled' in PAL case, Sereno says

Fusap had complained that Mendoza's letters prompted the recall by the court en banc of the Sept. 7, 2011, resolution by the court's Second Division, which had declared void Mendoza's letter dated Sept. 2, 2011, transmitting to PAL if final the reinstatement by PAL of 1,400 Fusap members in 1998 was illegal.

"The recall was made by the court on its own before the ruling's finality pursuant to the court's power of control over its orders and resolutions. Time-to-die process rules were observed," the court held.

Corona inhibited

The high tribunal said Corona had no role in the recall as he had earlier inhibited himself from the case.

The court said Corona "acted only on the recommendation of the ruling division since he penned ponencia in the case long before."

"The resolution on this motion could have been brought about by the Chief Justice's role as the presiding officer of the court en banc, and the fact that the three most senior justices of the court inhibited from participating in the case," it said.

"In the absence of any clear personal malicious participation, it is neither correct nor proper to hold the Chief Justice personally responsible for the collegial action of the court en banc."

Reform Academy Group president, testified last month before the Senate acting as an impartial court. He claimed Corona "modified" in the recall of the resolution that would have decided with finality the 13-year-old labor case.

Proper and legal

In the majority decision penned by Justice Teresita De Castro en banc said in Sept. 7, 2012, resolution "was a proper and legal move to make under the applicable laws and rules, and the indisputable issues of the supervening and circumstances of the case."

Concurring with Castro were Antonio Carpio, Presbitero Velasco Jr., Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, Mariano del Castillo and Martin Villarama Jr.

"While the administrative question involved, the court said the case should not be nullified either by Justices Brion, Abad, Perlas-Bernabe remaining members of the Special Third Division that originally ruled on the case—or that the second motion for reconsideration filed by PAL may be resolved.

The court said the motion involved questions of jurisdiction and interpretation of conflicting provisions of the Internal Rules of the Supreme Court which was complicated by the successive retirement of three justices (in a five-member division), the series of inhibitions in the case, the reorganization of the division, and the timing of Mendoza's letters, made after the division issued its ruling on Sept. 7, 2011, but before the parties received their copies.

Bienvenido Reyes, however, pointed out a "manipulation of the rules," citing Section 4(D), Article VIII of the Constitution, which states that "cases or matters heard by a division shall be decided or resolved with the concurrence of a majority of the members who actually took part in the deliberations on the issues in the case and voted thereon, and in no case without the concurrence of at least three of such members..."

'Flipping'

In her dissent, Sereno said the majority's ruse had "opened a Pandora's box full of horror stories for Philippine judicial decision-making."

She said the majority's ruling "opened for review a decision on the merits that had been unanimously agreed upon and affirmed by at least 10 justices acting in three deliberately constituted divisions of this court for a staggering third time."

"This extreme 'flipping' was prompted not even by a formal motion for reconsideration by the losing party, but by how letters from its counsel addressed not to the court, but only to the clerk of court. The circumstances under which this flipping was made are so curiously strange where the five justices who voted to deny the second motion for reconsideration were not even allowed access to present their promulgated decision from over becoming final," she said.

Sereno said the court en banc should revoke the recall of the Sept. 7, 2011, resolution and reinstate the case to the Second Division, her reinstatement and finality of the ruling that declared the retrenchment illegal.

She said Mendoza's letters should have been simply "noted."

"The recall produced the very effect that the majority find unacceptable in Justice Brion, speaking for the majority, wanted to avoid—flip-flopping on cases decided with finality on account of a prohibited second motion for reconsideration and personal correspondences by a party's counsel. There seem to be many indications of flip-flopping than the subsequent and sudden denial of the petition in the main Fusap case on a second motion for reconsideration, despite the grant of the petitioner's motion, by at least 10 justices," she said.

Fourth review?

Reform Group urged Sereno to file a motion for reconsideration before the finality of the ruling, saying the Second Division's decision "is not yet final."

"If this court is to adhere to its character as a court of last resort, it must stop giving never-ending refuge to parties who obstinately seek to second-guess and re-litigate cases that are now glossed of their counsel's creativity as to labelling a prohibited second motion for reconsideration, or the changing composition of the three divisions of the court, as motions of the court might as well try to rest in the rapid-fire the founding judicial principles of immutability of judgments and res judicata," she said.

WHAT WENT BEFORE: Fusap

IN OCTOBER 2011, the Supreme Court ordered by finality the airline Philippine Airlines (PAL) to reinstate 1,400 members of the flight attendants and stewards association of the Philippines (Fusap) unjustifiably dismissed wrong decision issued the ruling.

The first-page resolution dated Oct. 5, same after PAL's counsel, Estelito Mendoza, wrote the tribunal and questioned the ruling of the court's Second Division.

Court spokesperson Midas Marquez said the motion because Mendoza was not authorized to file the motion by the Fusap's Special Third Division and set its flying ban.

The case stemmed from 1998, government on June 11, 1998, that it was laying off 3,000 employees, including 1,400 members of Fusap, purportedly to avoid bankruptcy.

Reversal or ruling

Fusap lodged a case against PAL by illegal dismissal and in July 2000, the National Labor Relations Commission ordered the airline to reinstate with back wages.

Since appeals by PAL, the case remains in May 2004 reversed its ruling and Fusap went to the Court of Appeals, but lost.

On July 22, 2008, the Supreme Court said PAL had failed to show that it was in such dire financial straits and ordered the company to reinstate the 1,400 Fusap members with full back wages and benefits.

In October 2008, the court threw out PAL's motion for reconsideration.

PAL lodged a second motion for reconsideration, but on Sept. 7, 2011, the Supreme Court's Second Division upheld the previous ruling and said Estelito Mendoza's motion for the court's ruling.

Senators gang up on P-Noy's grade school batchmate

By Cathy Yamsuan and Tyler Cabacungan

SENATORS ganged up on Justice C. Diaz III, administrator of the Land Registration Office, for inconsistent statements before which he has ignored several times the list of ill-owned properties that his agency allegedly wanted to Chief Justice Renato Corona and his family.

"You know, sometimes you are going to a hole since you are going to a hole," said Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile told the LRA head.

Enrile made the comment after Sen. Loren Legarda noted that Diaz said Sen. Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos Jr. that it took him until last "technical study" to provide the Senate property the list of 49 properties that companies traced to Corona, his wife Cristina and their children.

A prosecution spokesperson, Rep. Rodolfo Quimbo, revealed the fact during a news conference at the Senate after the first hearing of the impeachment trial for betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution began on Jan. 16.

Legarda added that Diaz himself told Enrile that some titles that belonged to Corona were already in the name of the land possessions. Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., called it only January and requested a list of Corona properties.

"So the titles were available even before there was a request from the land possession," Legarda said. She noted when media started asking about the properties, "Enrile asked.

"I thought it was the best preparation," Enrile replied.

Flip-flopping

Complaining that Diaz's statements were causing "more confusion and confusion," Legarda asked another uncomfortable when Diaz told Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago that his officials to get together the list of 46 properties. "And nothing to do with the impeachment trial."

However, Diaz told Marcos that he could not provide the list because he was "legally restricted" by the Senate rules.

"I belief your questions, Mr. Administrator," Santiago said when Diaz mentioned that number he not the prosecution panel to provide the office the contents of his report on the 46 properties were published.

The prosecution panel had already stipulated that at least 24 of the properties listed do not belong to Corona, his wife or their children.

No verification

Diaz admitted during questioning that many of the entries were properties of memorabilia of Corona family members.

He added that his agency's "trace back" effort did not involve verification whether a property indeed belonged to a Corona family member or a namesake.

"Given negligence records when the set is fragmented and public. You know that was going to be quoted to you and [lawyers] as incumbent official. You should have been more careful," Santiago hinted.

Highly incriminatory

"After your ex-cerpts you say that they that you did not even note, 'yes titles, some of these names don't even have Coronas in it.' You did not even say this LRA need a time look system, and asked the prosecution to 'please check this for accuracy' since you were working only with one data," she added.

Santiago said Diaz erred in admitting that true "highly incriminatory" and noted that he and the prosecution panel could be criminally liable for committing gross negligence following the public disclosure of the contents.

Diaz, a fraternity brother of President Aquino in Ateneo elementary school, countered that he could not be considered a party to the prosecution panel's efforts.

"I would have resisted also the defense if this request from [...] I am not a party to the case. I am not [to be] found liable to no party," he explained.

"Why can I not impressed by your answers, Ma'Dias," Enrile...ys that fork.

"You have been saying to in...ultimately that you have evidence. The virtue of incriminating information [is] like prosecuting evidence," she added.

The senator then instructed prosecutors to "study your cases of political conduct. You are like...ing to the wall of somebody" [illegible] "Are we looking on the basis of criminality."

Under questioning by Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada, Diaz said: "I will not accept that I'm in cahoots with the prosecution panel. I can't also readily accept that if you intimidate transmitting the information."

HOME WE GO AGAIN: Vice Minister Dolores Santiago (center) of LRA Administrator Estelito C. Diaz III during the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona on Wednesday. [illegible]

LAW CHIEF [illegible] Incumbent [illegible]

Defense, prosecution panels agree on 21 Corona properties

From page A1

But private prosecutor Wilson Gamboa said one of those 17 titles—the one referring to the Ayala Heights property in Quezon City—was cancelled only in 2010 and therefore was "still owned by the [same 2002] to 2008."

Both camps also agreed that eight more titles in the LRA list were not under the name of Corona or his wife Cristina. The defense, however, sought a registration on 12 titles, but Gamboa said the prosecution was still "studying" what Corona's counsel boss of those properties.

The four disputed properties are the Mckinley property in Taguig City, and the Quezon City properties in La Vista Subdivision, Cubao and Kalayaan Avenue.

"For purposes of clarity and accuracy, the court now orders us to submit your respective memorandum on this issue and notify your position," Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, the presiding officer in the impeachment trial, told both the panels.

Enrile also granted the request by the lead defense counsel, Jesulito Corona, that the four disputed properties, including the Ayala Heights property, should be "the subject of evidence because this involved evidence of fact and not merely of law."

"There are four (properties) in the enclosed list and another one and I do not think that the prosecution will object to the validity of the claim of each of the contending parties here," Corona told the court.

"So if it will not be taking too much, may we humbly request that evidence be required for purposes of judgment be the court as to the claim of both parties."

Enrile then ruled: "I agree that that is the subject of proof, to ordered."

La Vista property

Carlo Alcantara, the head of the Quezon City property of deeds, earlier testified that Corona's title for the Ayala Heights property was already a "cancelled" title, the property having been sold on Feb. 16, 2010 for P8 million.

The 1,200-square-meter La Vista property, now belongs to Corona's daughter Carlo and her husband, Constantino Castillo. The couple bought it from the Corona for P3.6 million on Nov. 9, 2010, according to the testimony.

The same testimony showed that the Cubao property is under the names of Carlo and Constantino Castillo after they bought it from Jesus Encinas on Dec. 13, 2003, for P10.3 million.

The Cubao also says the Kalayaan property, which was bought on March 11, 2008, for P13 million. It has an encumbrance of P11 million borrowed from The Bank of the Philippine Islands, as shown on its transfer certificate of title.

HIT & MISS: After a two-day absence, The Hon in White, the lead defense counsel, Jesulito Corona, is warmly welcomed by his team at the Senate session hall on Wednesday. [illegible]

At the start of yesterday's proceedings, the 64-year-old Corona apologized for missing the previous day's hearing, his doctors. He was said to have suffered from vertigo.

But Enrile, 86, cut him off, saying he didn't have to and that he understood the situation. "We are only human," he said.

Early in the trial, the defense again presented Comelec Commission on election officer of Alves Land Corp., to prove that Corona did not have to declare his condominium unit in The Collection in Makati City prior to 2008, the year he finally did so.

Cruz testified that Bro. Corona "accepted" the unit only on Aug. 12, 2008, even if the property was "deemed accepted" by the developer earlier on June 7, 2008.

No party of facts

Sen. Francis Escudero later clarified whether the defense had different positions when it came to The Collection unit, which prosecutors said should have been declared as early as in the 2004 SALN) and the Mckinley property.

A Senate staff, Demetri Valenzuela, testified that he had long had the owner of the 3,400-square-meter Mckinley property even if he had not yet transferred the title in his name.

"It my understanding correct that your theory is that if the property has not yet been delivered it's not yet owned by Chief Justice Corona and therefore should not be declared in his SALN yet?" Escudero asked Corona.

"On the other hand, even if the property is not yet registered, if it's already delivered in new belongs to the buyer is in the case of Vicente?"

Corona replied that there was "no party of facts" between the case of The Collection unit and the sale of the Mckinley property to Vicente.

"The Vicente case deals with an entirely different set of facts. In this particular incidence. The contract to sell covers a property that still had to be constructed. It was not in existence [yet]. So practically it was a sale of a right," the defense counsel argued.

Obama to visit world's most heavily fortified border

WASHINGTON—Amid new tension with North Korea over a planned rocket launch, US President Barack Obama plans to visit the demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea at the start of an international trip next week, the White House announced on Tuesday.

Sunday's trip to the most heavily defended border in the world carries obvious Cold War symbolism as Obama tries to forge new nuclear disarmament talks with North Korea.

Although US officials regularly go to the DMZ, the presidential visit is likely to be read by the North as a special show of strength in its new, untested leader.

"The DMZ is the front line of democracy in the Korean peninsula," said a symbol of US unity with military ally South Korea, said Daniel Russel, Asia director for the White House National Security Council.

"It will be the president there to see and to thank the US and the South Korean service members whom perform arms," Russel added.

Obama aides noted that his visit comes almost exactly two years after the sinking of a South Korean warship, which Seoul and Washington have blamed on Pyongyang.

Seoul summit

Obama will visit some of the approximately 28,500 US troops stationed in South Korea as a legacy of the Korean war six decades ago.

The DMZ trip is his first stop on a three-day visit to Seoul for an international summit on keeping nuclear weapons materials out of the hands of terrorists.

The gathering of more than 50 nations is intended to take stock of progress toward Obama's goal of locking down nuclear material around the world by 2014. Despite some progress by known nuclear nations, the goal of complete security is far distant.

The summit also a coordinated by North Korea's nuclear brinkmanship and fears that Iran could soon build a nuclear weapon.

North Korea which has built and tested nuclear devices, is suspected in the spread of weapons of mass destruction to other countries. South Korea was not invited to the security gathering.

"The nuclear security summit is not about North Korea," Russel said. "It's about the commitment of the participating nations to honour their pledges and their commitments."

Odd man out

He said North Korea "will be the odd man out."

Obama will hold separate discussions on Monday and Tuesday with leaders of Russia, China, South Korea and other nations.

The Korean peninsula remains in a technical state of war since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice.

Secretaries of state and defense today begin flying to the DMZ, as do other US officials, but presidential visits carry added symbolism.

Obama's visit to the heavily fortified area will be the first by a US leader ever since 2002, when George W. Bush visited the DMZ village of Panmunjom a few weeks after he condemned North Korea as part of an "axis of evil."

US Presidents Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan also visited the DMZ while in office.

Obama could have skipped the trip in hopes of restarting arms control talks with the nuclear-armed North Korea but doing so could have opened him to charges of weakness at home.

Food aid could be stalled

North Korea's new leader, Kim Jong-un, visited Panmunjom and the DMZ for the first time as the head of his country this month. Kim ordered troops to be on high alert, state media reported.

Both Obama and Kim are invoking the symbolism of the DMZ at a time of political jockeying over North Korea's imminent rocket launch next month.

Washington has warned that a deal to resume stalled food aid to the North could be jeopardized if Pyongyang goes ahead with the launch. AP

Philippines urges North Korea to abandon rocket launch

From page A1

long-range rocket will put a satellite in orbit sometime in April, a move that the United States and its allies say is a pretext for a missile test that would violate several resolutions of the United Nations.

In a press statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) appealed to Pyongyang "not to proceed with its planned rocket launch" that was timed to coincide with Kim Jong-un's 29th birthday and the 100th birthday anniversary of North Korea's founding president, Kim Il-sung.

"We express grave concern over (North Korea's) announced plan to launch a satellite between April 12 and 16 which we find unacceptable," the DFA said.

UN security resolution

The DFA also urged Pyongyang to abide by UN Security Council resolutions. One such resolution, which was passed after North Korea's missile and nuclear tests in 2009, bans a ballistic missile launch by any purpose.

"We join other governments in urging (North Korea) to adhere to its recent pledge for a moratorium on long-range missile launches, together with nuclear tests and uranium enrichment activity," the DFA said.

The Philippines is a long-time ally of the United States and South Korea, having sent troops to fight under the UN flag to defend the South from a North Korean invasion during the 1950-1953 war. Manila recently established diplomatic relations with Pyongyang in 2000, one of the last Asian governments to do so.

In Australia, Foreign Minister Bob Carr said the launch would be a clear breach of UN Security Council resolutions and underlined pledges that North Korea had made in recent talks with the United States.

Breach of bilateral deal

"North Korea's nuclear and long-range missile programs present a real and credible threat to the security of the region and to Australia," Carr said, pointing out that "as recently as three months ago, North Korea signed in Jakarta with the United States to implement a moratorium on long-range missile launches."

"I call on North Korea to follow through on this recent assurance and its previous commitments and abandon its launch plan," Carr said.

Pyongyang on earlier said the rocket launch would breach a bilateral deal that was announced on Feb. 29, which offered 240,000 tons of US food aid in return for Pyongyang's partial nuclear freeze and a suspension of missile tests.

Nuclear security summit

Leaders of five nations meeting in Seoul next week would discuss ways to press Pyongyang to scrap the rocket launch when they meet next week at a summit in Seoul, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak said in interviews published on Thursday.

US President Barack Obama will attend the nuclear security summit, along with leaders of China, South Korea, Japan and Russia. All the countries have been involved since 2003 in talks to shut down the North's nuclear program.

With reports from AFP and AP

Give the President a break, Binay tells student activists

From page A1

not working? Even barangay captains are working, aren't they?" Binay told reporters on the sidelines of the Chamber of Thrift Banks conference held yesterday at a hotel in Makati City.

Contrary to the critics' claims, the country has a working President, he said.

Planking vs yesterday

Maintaining (before) standing, sitting or lying on the ground, sharing little space, looking bored and doing nothing. It's a play on the President's nickname "Noynoy."

Recordings in militant student leaders, the Henan Crisostomo, chair of Anakbayan, and Cristian Paredes, secretary-general of the Kabataan party-list group, planking, or lying face-down, in yesterday's protest here.

The new "in" thing among activists is to lure around as if without worries, or Noynoying in yesterday.

Crisostomo said the mostly-effortless pose was what the President was, he said, had done nothing to confront the impact of or prevent the spike in crude prices and tuition rates.

'Balde of truth'

"Ito kasi ang Mindanao, hindi ka nagsalita, hindi ka daw nagtatrabaho, that is Noynoying, when you do nothing when in fact you have something to do," he added.

Mr. Aquino's spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, said a "clear conscience" was the Palace response to criticisms on the President's working style.

At a press briefing, Lacierda was asked to react to a rally just outside the gates of Malacañang yesterday, where protesters accused the President of being indecisive after President of spending more time in going after women than attending to the pressing concerns of the nation.

Whatever the protesters said was part of "free speech" and "that was something we will honor," Lacierda said.

"I'm the President and I know that. What is our answer to that? It's clear conscience. The conviction that we are ... serving this country; that we are performing our obligations, that we are performing our responsibilities and we will go ahead with doing what the President feels is what is right for the country," he told reporters.

"And that's the only answer to any criticism toward the President, toward this administration," he said. "The basis of action: conscience, the basis of truth is the remedy to all these criticisms."

Best evidence

Lacierda said Mr. Aquino was not affected by all the talk and told reporters that "best evidence" is closer than the bad rap affected him was when the Dead Executive "screamed, hysterics, cowardice and that's his style."

"He doesn't take things personally. He knows that there will be criticisms. That's part of the job and somebody who is in public service should learn how to have a what we call in law "thick skin" because there will really be criticisms," he said.

Lacierda thanked Binay for attending the President.

Rare applause

The Vice President said expressed Mr. Aquino in the Second Business Security summit to be held this week-end in South Korea. Around 50 heads of state, including US President Barack Obama who endorsed the holding of a summit on nuclear security in 2009 in Washington, were expected to attend the event.

At the House of Representatives, the minority bloc gave a rare applause for the President for ignoring the latest protest grievance.

"I would just like to commend the President for his attitude regarding Noynoying, which he just brushed off and even laughed it off," Minority Leader Danilo Suarez said in a press conference.

"The last President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) was also like that. Even (Ferdinand) Marcos was called bunch names like gambal (dwarf) and buhlit (small). It was OK for her as long as she was doing her job," Suarez said.

Deputy Minority Leader Milagros Magsaysay said the President should take Noynoying as a "challenge" to prove his critics wrong.

"It's just a collection of what the people think as he has this administration delivers its basic services to the people. This Noynoying issue should be used as a tool for the administration to rethink their policies and to really address the problems of the Filipino people in its core," Magsaysay said.

The Wall Street Journal picked up the story in its March 30 issue with this head: "Noynoy presents challenge to Philippine leader." With a report from *Ed C. Catapusan*

BINAY: Can you imagine the President not working?

PNoy meets German trade delegation in Malacañang

PRESIDENT Aquino last night met with a German business delegation that included German Embassy officials in Malacañang.

Communications Secretary Ruddy Coronel said the German business delegation was supposed to pay a call only on Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario but the latter asked the President if he could meet with the group, too.

The President was "gracious" to meet with them, Coronel said.

"The Philippines and Germany have some issues left over from the previous administration but that is one of the things that help develop goodwill," Coronel said of the scheduled courtesy call by the German delegation.

The government has yet to settle a row with German firm Fraport over the construction of Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, which saw them embroiled in a legal fight for several years now over the demand of Fraport for just compensation for services it had rendered.

The government claimed that the Asia Terminal 3 project was overpriced and was tainted with corruption. Christine O. Avendaño

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Fire season

IT'S INTRIGUING that fires break out with unnerving regularity in March, as though they were acts of sacrifices to twit an designation as Fire Prevention Month. A cursory glance at reports of fire incidents in the metropolis starting in the early days of the month will show: one in a compound in Barangay Bagong-Tipan in Taguig City on March 4, which injured two persons, displaced dozens of families, and resulted in damage of up to P1 million; another on F.B. Harrison Street in Pasay City on the same day, which left some 100 families homeless and, heartbreakingly, killed three young boys (2-year-old twins and a 3-year-old) whose mother had left them alone and sleeping while she stepped out to buy medicines; and yet another in Sitio 6, Barangay Canumay, Malabon City, on March 6, which rendered 40 families homeless and killed a 3-year-old girl who, unknown to her kin, had been left asleep in their rush to flee the flames.

EDITORIAL

The details in these and other incidents tend to produce the overused scenario of fire occurring in areas densely packed with dwellings made of little more than corrugated iron, scrap plywood and other light materials—as in the blaze that gobbled up some 100 houses and effectively flames more than 300 families out on the streets in Barangay Bolbok, Lobo City, on March 4—and supposedly caused by the usual suspects: an unattended lighted candle or gas lamp, or an overheated electric line. In these and point representers, it does not always happen that the course of the fire is definitively pinpointed to the smoldering detritus that it leaves. Who is the public investigator that will perform the heroic act? The stiff breeze that topples the lighted candle that kindles the mosquito net that swiftly burns into flame and ignites facial embers is a modern act of the unfortunate. But the fire that razes rows of characters dotting the urban sprawl, triggered by a premeditated arsonist who said in detached to gasoline and set ablaze by an evil hand (if the rumored residues upwards in time!) is not.

Fire is the ultimate leveler, producing a ravish rasa, often unvalued, after it runs its devastating course. Governed then by the yearly incidence of fire in ever resurgent communities of informal settlers (for example, in the great squatter colony off Guadalupe on Edsa), or even in certain public markets that have long been eyesores and scheduled more than once for demolition in the face of tenants' resistance, would it be unreasonable for the attentive observers to suspect arson?

The crime that carries the maximum penalty of life imprisonment is suspected to be behind the fire that razed the Ever Gotesco Grand Central Mall in Caloocan City, an inferno remarkable for its long raging—beginning from the night of March 16 until the early morning of March 20, when "fire out" was announced. As much as 90 percent of one of the oldest shopping centers in the metropolis has been destroyed and the damage is estimated to reach P700 million, according to the city fire marshal, Supt. Oscar de Asis, who has since been relieved of his post by Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo.

Certain elements make the case particularly curious: CCTV footage showing mall personnel inexplicably relocated even with the inflection of fire on the night of March 16; De Asis' claim that the 5-story mall's sprinkler system was functioning properly and that it had its own firefighting equipment; and Caloocan Mayor Enrico Echiverri's statement that the fire could be the mall management's "way to escape the payment of its debt to the local government." The mayor said Gotesco Investment Inc. had been assessed by the city government since 2000 for real property taxes amounting to P732.3 million.

Robredo has ordered an investigation and required his department's Inter-Agency Anti-Arson Task Force chaired by Senior Supt. Prudencio Jaudian to submit a report in 45 days. As it happens, the mall tenants are literally forced to cool their heels: They cannot as yet examine what's left of their merchandise and the extent of their misfortune, and they need to await the results of the inquiry. They should not be fueled for their anger and impatience.

And the public needs assurance that the inquiry will result in something more than the discovery of whether or not arson was committed at the Ever Gotesco mall. Let it be the start of a shakeup in the Bureau of Fire Protection (now entrusted to, among other things, a tackling controversy concerning a P243-million supply contract): let Fire Prevention Month not be just an occasion for seminars—and children's drama.

Founding Chair Eugenio D. Apostol

Publisher Isaac Tiglao
Editor in Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joe Ma. D. Nolasco
Opinion Editor Rolando R. Gamolo Jr.
Associate Editor for Online Inclusion Jullian U. Cuadra
News Editor Michael P. Bandong Jr. • Chief, Page One Operations Mel R. Pulido
Chief, Page One Desk Karen C. Flamiano
Editorial Cartoonist Pinoytoonist Emeritus Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Juan F. Sarmiento Jr.
Editorial Consultant Armando Doronila
Art & Design Director Lyndy A. Velarde

Board Chair Hans E. Pantz
President Alexander Pantz-Rosales
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Rolando R. Rosario
Vice President for Advertising Felix R. Olario
Vice President for Finance Jose D. Valdes
Vice President for Human Resources Virgilio Andres S. Sarmiento IV
Corporate Affairs Manager Cesar B. Salazar Jr.

All rights reserved. No part of any material may be copied or reproduced in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. Unauthorized use may give rise to a civil suit for damages and criminal prosecution.

Public opinion on the Corona impeachment

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE FIRST of the much-awaited public opinion surveys on the impeachment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato C. Corona has just been released. Pulse Asia's nationwide survey was conducted between Feb. 26, or two days before the prosecution rested its case, and March 1, before the defense panel began presenting its own witnesses and evidence. The findings are quite startling, though not entirely unexpected.

The bare-bones headline to story on the survey results shows: "47% in poll say GMA should be tried almost exactly the same headline: "Poll: 47% of Pinoys believe GMA guilty." I don't think the choice of which finding to report reflects the bias of the person(s) rewriting newspapers. It is just the way the news works. In this case, it is the public's judgment of whether the Chief Justice is guilty or not that was deemed newsworthy, rather than, for instance, the number of people who could claim any knowledge of what is going on in the trial.

It is every thinking citizen's responsibility to understand what a survey is saying and what it is not saying. The assumption of surveys is not worth believing. It is important to bear this in mind because an opinion survey becomes itself an element in the shaping of public opinion.

What startles me most about the Pulse Asia survey is that only one out of three interviewees (33 percent) could claim enough knowledge of the issue on which to base their opinions, while two out of three (67 percent) said they had little or no knowledge at all of the issues. The majority's presumed lack of confidence in their own opinion is evident in the high percentage of indecisives (43 percent) who were "undecided" on the question of the Chief Justice's innocence or guilt. The way it looks to me, this is not so much an expression of ambivalence as it is a statement of ignorance.

Results like these make one wonder if it makes sense at all to ask opinions about issues on which a large majority of the informants themselves admit they have only the slightest knowledge. The "don't know" or "undecided" category is a nightmare for pollsters. The bigger the number of respondents falling under this category, the more the findings become dicey. Consider this: If 67 percent believe the accused Chief Justice is "definitely/probably" guilty, while 33 percent think he is "definitely/probably" innocent, then we have a total of 33 percent forming an opinion on a matter in which only 33 percent had claimed sufficient knowledge of the issues. Where did the 34 percent (33 minus 33) have their opinions?

Indeed, it is not the business of opinion surveys to assess the quality of their informants' opinions. But a survey like this, that also thoughtfully asks how much knowledge the informants have of the issue at hand, tells us why in the first instance, public opinion is not used in court as a basis for judging the guilt or innocence of an accused. Public opinion is something else to another. While both are based on perception, the standards they use are different.

Here lies the complexity of the process we are trying to understand. If the impeachment of Chief Justice Corona were a custody judicial process, the conduct of an opinion survey about his guilt or innocence would be out of place. Judges are not supposed to be guided by public opinion. A survey that tracks public opinion on a case while the trial is going on would be contemptuous of the legal system.

But because impeachment is fundamentally a political function involving a question of public policy, the expression and reporting of public opinion are fair-game for the whole process. Indeed the "eminent judges" are not only unable to ignore public opinion, they find themselves actively and consciously appealing to it and shaping it. They are not only aware that the public is watching and listening, they also take pains to perform for the gallery inside and outside the Senate hall. To say this is not to criticize them. It is merely to state a reality—that impeachment veers closely to the realm of politics more than it does to law.

This by no means suggests that politics is inferior to law, or vice versa. They are just different spheres; they differ first of all in the rules that govern them. Politics is governed by public opinion, and sees the world in terms of majorities and minorities. Law, on the other hand, is subjected to established notions of what is legal and illegal, and sees the world in terms of evidence and rules.

When a senator asks a witness omitting one or two assets in a public official's statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) constitutes an impeachable offense, he thereby seeks to apply the strict criterion of law. The senator made sense if there were precise definitions of what an impeachable offense is. There are none. One can only suppose that filing an erroneous SALN becomes impeachable when it manifests a pattern of willful concealment of a public official's wealth. But that is a matter of opinion. When the public views things like these, it matters little whether the undeclared property in question was only "frowned accepted" but technically not yet "owned" by the accused. This last sobering, which might be crucial in a judicial process, is mainly seen by the public as a form of evasion.

Resorting to the trial and death of Socrates, the philosopher Plato cautioned such an appeal drawn for public opinion that he envisioned a city-state ruled by a philosopher-king. But lawyers, who ought to justify public reason by helping every individual find his own way to truth, would have disagreed with him. I believe the proper function of opinion surveys is to encourage people to examine their own opinions.

public.lives@gmail.com

Starting point

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DEFENSE WILL tell Juan Ponce Enrile's opinion that it's irrelevant and show the SALNs of other government officials anyway.

"As much as we respect it, we believe in our way to defend the Chief Justice," Tranquil Salvador said. "We present our case and any other side relied current [irrespective of] how we should proceed our case. The law gave us that guarantee." The point is to show that it's the "pattern and existing practice" of public officials to file SALNs the way Corona does. "In the failure to submit a correct SALN an impeachable offense? In time, we will prove it's not."

What can I say? Outright absurd.

The ploy is just a variation of "Everybody cheats anyway." It's saying that if other people raped too, then rape is not a crime. Then rape is excusable. That "pinoy time" or any other such veiled excuse for non-excuse how we should proceed our case. The law gave us that guarantee."

The point is to show that it's the "pattern and existing practice" of public officials to file SALNs the way Corona does. "Is

Again, Aquino's Pulse Asia is deployed

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

AS EXPECTED, when the accusations against Chief Justice Renato Corona are collapsing under the weight of facts, President Aquino's hirees deploy what has proven in the past to be one of their most potent, yet silent propaganda weapon: Pulse Asia with its polls.

Unfortunately, mainstream media have allowed themselves to be used in this stratagem, and reinforce unwittingly banner headlines: "67% in poll say CJ guilty." The more objective headline which this newspaper's website used was another major newspaper used: "60% of Filipinos maintain doubt on Corona's guilt."

Opinion surveys are legitimate research tools, but to use them as propaganda tools, as a bulldozer, to a subtle extent, and hurting our people's unique capacity for the nuance of public conversation, political persuasion and intellectual dalliance on the part of politicos.

I believe from Angelo Palmones to Pepe Diokno and Horacio Chanduia and even the great columnist Walter Lippmann, have long ago pronounced the public basic conceptual flaw: Except for a miniscule segment of the population with direct knowledge of issues or with sufficient information, people's opinions on complex issues merely almost entirely depends on mass media.

Fully therefore do not measure a people's wisdom, but merely the extent to which media have affected their views on any issue posed by the pollsters. Hence, the old saying in media: "Garbage in, garbage out." Or the more elaborate version of the computer industry: "Garbage in, garbage out, where mainstream media have been clearly biased against Chief Justice Renato Corona and for President Aquino. One example: Banner headlines screamed in January "40 Corona secrets exposed." That those items may contain many, even just a few, purpose, on a face recently presents "Evanescent detail, wrong on (by 40 more claim!)"

Then perhaps God called me to a witness in the fact that it conducted its poll Feb. 25 to March 1, when only the prosecution had limited its accusations, with Corona's defense starting only March 12. Pulse Asia hasn't even made public the actual survey questions it used, which probably elicited the "guilty" responses it wanted. Contrast this survey result in the more professional Social Weather Stations, which has released—as it does—not only take such a designed-for-propaganda survey. (See item) It is Linda Research Strategic polls, which focused on people's perceptions on the honesty, fairness and correctness of the trial.

Pulse Asia poll itself shows another depth: Some 58 respondents did not answered to have an opinion or the necessary information on the topic presented, yet they are asked to respond. This results in Pulse Asia's dominant finding that 45 percent of respondents think Corona is guilty, yet 57 percent have little or no knowledge of the impeachment case.

Aquino's cronies in Senator Cayetano's fast rapidly humiliated Pulse Asia when it was let up, and was run by another cronie, Ana Lapu, until 2009. After its start-up, a polling firm can operate as long as it has paid fees or commissioned poll projects. I dare Pulse Asia to disclose who commissioned its impeachment survey.

Pulse Asia definitely has had an ignominious track record of advancing Mr. Aquino's political agenda. Its poll on the presidential race in 2009 had the same media approach of undertaking a survey right after a media barrage, and then having the pitch headlines its findings.

Exhibit 1: "President Aquino, the man's corrupt just like ... Duterte-Sara?" (December 2007 headline). Of course most respondents to the poll picked Aquino as the most corrupt president? It was made Dec. 30 to 31, 2007, when people were hungover with food prep to eve of allegations—to this day unproven—of corruption. The poll to effect unprofessionally and unmistakably asked respondents to quickly to move from their memory and computer all the cases of corruption for each of the five presidents, such as Marcos' Swiss bank accounts to Gloria's P1 billion illegitimate funds allegations. She has been a disbelief mastrokes—commissioned by her, Sergio Osmeña Jr. III—of manufacturing a fallacy disguised as "fact," with the poll's findings being repeated ad nauseam to the point that few believe to contradict.

Exhibit 2: "The Philippines' worst and best Presidents, the Most Corrupt Institution—Pulse Asia." (March 2011). The 2007 to polls never before was ranked among the society's most corrupt institutions. It was usually the police, the DPWH, and the Bureau of Customs. Yet Pulse Asia's survey was taken during the Senate's televised investigations on alleged drug corruption, which dogged the headlines for many days. And our topmost inherited backs had been undertaken to the AFP for years ago.

Exhibit 3: "Unbelievable! 80% believe, the most unpopular official—Pulse Asia." (February 2011). While media decidedly backed Mr. Aquino's denunciation of the former Ombudsman as an obstacle to his anti-corruption campaign, Pulse Asia undertook its poll, and, shockingly, found Merceditas not the most unpopular government official at that time, bolstering the impeachment move against her. Two days after the poll was published, Gutierrez resigned. (Don't know how Pulse Asia president Ana Tabunda could look despite night and even pretend to be an academic.

The intent of Pulse Asia's recent poll is obvious: To bombast the senator judges to follow a conviction for "people's votes." Fellow columnists will berate me for hyperbole now and even that the "people" have already decided."

"Say, pupil, are die" down the ages has been a historic point of demagogues ignorant of the phrase's origin, which was a warning to Charlemagne by the English scholar Alcuin: "Don't listen to those who claim the voice of the people is the voice of God, since the mob's howling always borders on insanity."

E-mail: tiglao.inquirer@gmail.com

'Café au' social innovation

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Cerres P. Reyes

IF TABOU café au lait (coffee with milk), there is now what I would call café au social innovation. The latter is not a coffee drink per se but a café concept set (French bistro cottage), a place to be, a showcase of "a new generation of social entrepreneurs who are using business models to create positive and sustainable impact." But do not limit the post behind. "The café is located on Cameron avenue, corner Jupiter in Quezon City on the second floor of the building where 2Go's fast-growing Philippine Express body cargo products are sold.

Advocacy of the café? "Back to nature! There a month is "advocacy café" that I had written about—Advocafé. It showcases products of indigenous peoples communities (IPs) and unified by IPs. My good friend Bert Abellana, who, like Midori, is an IP from Mindanao, is the founder of The Inclusive Group Advocafé to support Panabasa, a college he founded for IP students. Advocafé is on Quezon St., near Roxas Boulevard.

Support adventure outlet

So let me continue partnering with The Enchanted Farm Café are the following.

The Enchanted Farm is a village university, the organization for social entrepreneurs that provide "only the best to the least." It is a place where good food, products, and food gardens.

Inevitable, it a post-ecological enterprise that makes handcrafted bamboo bicycles designed with green innovation and handmade by DE villagers. Made with locally sourced bamboo and abaca, the bikes are naturally strong and serve as a physical statement for green transportation advocacies.

Filmmaker Signorets provides high quality products in the form of food, beverages and health supplements through an integrated and holistic approach. Enchanted is a social enterprise devoted to promoting bamboo as the purest of health, well-being and beauty to address each individual's needs and care for the environment. the company aims to create sustainable livelihood for rural farming communities in the Philippines.

Kapatiran is a social business enterprise—creating designer lifestyle masterpieces that embody eco-ethical style. The company partners with high end designers to create eco-ethical fashion and home accessories out of "upcycled" scrap cloth, organic materials and indigenous fabrics. Kapatiran is green jobs to women in poor communities.

The Golden Egg aims to grow horizontally from the Enchanted Farm platform with a vision of creating a more sustainable chicken egg and meat industry. They are anchored on the families of the Enchanted Farm. The eggs chicks are dyed yellow (instead of the usual pink red) using turmeric.

Loomers Hut is a chain enterprise that aims to provide artisan chocolate of the finest quality harvested from native cacao beans. The daily produce is are made from cacao sourced from local farmers and made by members of the DE community.

Other social entrepreneurs are Happy Grass, maker of Enchanted; Gardens Goldcoin, makers of Enchanted; Gardens Goldcoin, makers of Enchanted; Gardens Goldcoin, makers

Vicente is just a usufructuary

THE TESTIMONY of witness Bonifacio Vicente shows by his the right of usufruct and not ownership over the Mariklina property. Article 562 of the Civil Code states: "Usufruct gives a right to enjoy the property of another with the obligation of preserving its form and substance, unless the title constituting it or the law otherwise provides." All Vicente has is the right to enjoy Coronel property with the obligation of preserving its form and substance.

The following are the proofs: (1) The ownership of the Mariklina property has remained with the Coronel since after 22 years. The title and suicide businesses are still in the name of the Coronel; (2) Vicente's failure to protect his right in the alleged owners a evidence enough that he does not own the Mariklina property. At the time of the sale, the transfer tax was only P2,000 outstanding, yet he never bothered to transfer the title in his name. Even if the transfer tax now has reached P200,000, this is still a small amount compared to the real property taxes he claimed he had been paying totalling P1.5 million for P70,000 annually for 22 years. The Coronel must be the one paying the taxes, because Vicente admitted he had no money to even pay for the transfer tax for the Mariklina property; (3) Signing and planning homage on the Mariklina property are compatible with Vicente's and not any rights; (4) The deed of sale of the Mariklina property was not a public document. It is to be a public document, it must first be issued and by a notary commissioned to notary public. Moreover, the sale was never announced on the title. Such transfer, therefore, will not bind third persons as it is neither contained in a public document nor is it annotated on the title. It would seem that deed of sale is to make Vicente a "dummy" and not to transfer ownership; (5) There is no evidence that Coronel had P15 million as the funds allow he bought the Mariklina property.

Likewise, is there evidence he paid in manager's check for the Mariklina property. Finally, Vicente acts against the alleged broken agreement with Coronel. In the sale of the Mariklina property, if Vicente was aware only to be a "dummy," Coronel has to find a way to counter double when he submitted—that Vicente was a buyer for a consideration. Kaya ser read in the income: "Witness Demetrio Vicente is known as having Mariklina as property." Is this part of the Chief Justice's "gotcha moment"?

—RICHARD ROAS,
rhoas.coast@yahoo.com

LETTERS

Secretary to blame for SALN error?

THE "DOUBLE" mention dated by Randy David in his March 15 column emphasized that impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona should evenly not only to prove his lies did not throw so much people's money but that he hardly deserves to hang on to his post.

While I agree with David, I don't think any statement by Corona or by his wife Cristina can ever change the fact that the unlawful and deceitful acts of non-disclosure committed by Corona in violation of seven, forbidden and are countable. The primary conduct for acquittal and the audience of proceedings in favor—this could only be either by his conviction, or by his resignation before a guilty verdict is handed down to him by the Senate.

—GLADYS NORAYO,
gladi_pinkie@hotmail.ph

PWJA ladies broke sub judice rule

THE ARE described in the bloated show of "veiled supports," organized by the Philippine Women Judges Association (PWJA) during its convention last March 10, to impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona. This was a gathering of trial judges and appellate justices to whom the people have entrusted the power to preside over their lives and fortunes supposedly with the highest degree of impartiality, wisdom and solitary. PWJA president, Supreme Court Justice Teresita De Castro, was also delivered Agnes Gonzales (Justice property). "An injustice to one or to a an injustice to everyone!" (read). The impeachment of Corona is an attack against the entire judiciary.

Simply, old-fashioned "debasing disorderly brave lady" performing display of misplaced lofty in check and erased the "honorable" magistrates to distance themselves from the execution which has morphed into a full-blown coup political squabble between Corona and the president of the Republic. The end in the impeachment court is ongoing and it behooves them, or all people, to respect the trust on "institution."

It is for the power of the people re-seated to Congress that Corona is now on the dock. By manifestly linking

CHIEF Justice Corona with Philippine Women Judges Association members

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

trust with the beleaguered Chief Justice, the members of the PWJA themselves may have betrayed the trust the people have reposed in them. It is high time to reassess the "veiled assembly" demanded by their successors office in the face of its controversy. This does not speak very well of the quality of judges and justices were assuming the vanguards of the Philippine judicial system. Ordinary citizens are allowed to vent about their individual predilections and prejudices; judges and justices, mum definitely are not.

In the "honorable" women judges' defense, they could have argued that the accused Corona walks on and have thereby prejudged the impeachment court, the people shall for you to record that side of judicial conduct and others—something your chief was allegedly unable to appreciate when he

—STEVE T. VESPERA, ESQ.,
steve888@yahoo.com

Slowdown in OFW remittances tells gov't to change labor generation strategy

THERE IS an exercise in a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas report saying that overall OFW remittances in January this year was the lowest compared to the same month in the last five years. Per month in 2009 and 2010. Per BSP data, the money transfers grew significantly slower last January from 14 percent a year earlier and from 8.3 percent in December of 2011.

The new reporting that OFW remittances will increase in 2011, is almost proportion to the steady increase in the number of Filipino workers going abroad. But not certainly basis. OFW remittance falls have been on the decline due to several factors, such as the political upheavals in some Arab countries in the Middle East and North Africa, the devastating earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand and economic crises in Europe and America.

So, it is not good to see that under the Aquino administration the labor deployment is still the same as those of the previous administrations'—the peddling of unemployed and underemployed Filipino workers abroad where they are forced to do dirty, dangerous and dehumanizing jobs, their skilling, reskilling and labor rights disregarded, ignored and ignored by governments.

The only angles that the government remains a failure when it comes to creating local jobs with decent pay and benefits. Let us, the government's labor export program is not a solution—in fact, it is thinking...job generation measure; it is a most head-scratch solution to our country's economic woes.

We renew our call to the Aquino administration: Implement a genuine agrarian reform program adequately backed by allied services and infrastructure support for farmers, and industrialize our economy, encourage and save industries like oil and mining. This twin approach will serve to our country's economic backbone and ensure and national economic progress and development.

—JUAN GERNALD SUNTEJANA,
regional director, Migrante Middle East migrantesmec@gmail.com

Immediate result

THE NEPERA in the house ("Unanimity high Marshall more bill to raised," inquirer, 3/9/2012) of Mayaklad Pilar's Barangay Sto....

After receiving my January 2012 wage bill amounting to P165,385.74 on Jan. 9, 2012, a Monday, I immediately wrote a letter addressed to Mayaklad, Cainta, Rizal. On Jan. 9, 2012, his office head, I personally handed my letter to Honorable Salazar who promised me to send investigators after waiting for one month, I received a "letter of discontinuance."

As a last resort, I wrote the Inquirer, my favorite newspaper, which provided immediate result, so "surprising, surprising, surprising."

—REGINO NICOLAS OPERIA,
23 Sampaguita St.,
Vergonville, Las Piñas City

need a job?

Manila bishop belittles survey on Corona

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MANILA Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo yesterday warned the public to be wary of surveys.

The warning followed the release by Pulse Asia on Tuesday of a survey on the ongoing impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

The survey conducted from Feb. 26 to March 9 showed that of 1,200 respondents, 47 percent said Corona was guilty, 43 percent were undecided and 5 percent said he was innocent.

"These kinds of surveys, I really don't know how true they are that's why are really don't give them too much importance," Pabillo told reporters in a chance interview at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) office in Intramuros last Tuesday.

Pabillo advised the public to be discerning and not to be persuaded by results of surveys as if they were already the "truth."

"Because it's just one way of manipulating public opinion," he said, adding that even the media had been observing bias in reporting the ongoing impeachment trial of Corona.

For the people to make a prudent decision, the bishop advised them to just follow the live coverage of the impeachment trial on television rather than just relying on news that had already been processed.

"It's different if you just follow the actual trial than just depend on what's being said on the radio, TV or the newspaper," Pabillo said.

But he admitted that he wasn't following the impeachment trial because he didn't believe in the process.

"It's purely a political thing. It's not being conducted for the sake of truth," he added.

PREJUDICE? Members of the Gloria Panagunin-Monsanto with "Iisang Change" hold anti-Corona placards during a press conference in Quezon City to remind the public to remain vigilant as the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Corona goes on a long break starting next week for the Holy Week. INQUIRER

Ambushed NBI exec says he needs 'amparo'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AN OFFICIAL of the National Bureau of Investigation who survived an ambush last month said was included among the respondents in a petition brought by ex-NBI Director Magtanggol Gatdula for a writ of amparo said yesterday that he needed the protection the court can give the petitioners.

"The court should have provided me with security and not the other way around," NBI Deputy Director Reynaldo Esmeralda said, commenting on Gatdula's request of Gatdula's petition by a Manila court to restrain the justice department and the NBI from prosecuting him.

"I almost died [in the ambush]," Esmeralda said. "I will have bullet fragments in [my] my body [that] still have to be removed."

Citing NBI and police findings, Esmeralda said at least 11 bullets hit the vehicle he was riding during the ambush in Pasay, Manila, on Feb. 21.

He said he could not have staged the ambush. "If I were to stage my own ambush just to frame Gatdula, the gunmen would have studied as simply as little, because bullets are hard to control, and I would not have allowed anyone to get hurt."

His youngest brother, 1Lt. Ella Esmeralda, was hit in the shoulder and had to undergo surgery for the removal of bullet fragments in the eye after the ambush by two unidentified riding men.

Esmeralda gave the assurance, however, that the NBI will respect the court's order and grant access to the vehicle. "We are not hiding anything," he said. He stressed that he himself requested Gatdula for the ambush. "I only said that it may be related to the [Morfe] Dhara case, but I did not point an accusing finger at him."

Confusion marks first day of fare hike like no change for ₱10

By Kristine Felicia Manguray

BONDATED drivers, clueless and irate commuters.

This was the situation in some streets in Caloocan City on Wednesday morning, the first day the 50-centavo increase in jeepney fares was implemented.

On Rizal Avenue, Candy Bernardo, who had taken a jeep from Malinta in Valenzuela City to the LRT Monumento station, scratched her head when asked by the boy-conductor if the new fare adjustment applied to her route.

Bernardo said that he boarded a jeepney from Bustillos to MH North in Quezon City, and no other fare than ₱8 for Rizal Avenue. All throughout his trip, he said that he never asked why he got back only ₱1.50 as change for each ₱10 note he gave as payment.

"I just assumed the jeepney drivers committed a mistake," he said.

Some jeepney drivers had their own share of gripes.

Hard put for 50c coins

Freddie Mahinipid, who plies the Mabuhay-Rizal Avenue route, told the inquirer that a couple of times he would get irritated and make rash passenger pay only ₱8 to avoid giving him or her 50 centavo coins as change.

"It's difficult to count, sensan dame coins. In the end, I just make up the passengers pay less. At least, if it's ₱8 (they pay) their change is ₱2. If it's ₱8.50, and they give me ₱10, I have to give them ₱1.50. Where do I get the 50 centavos?" he asked.

Rosalie Edmonio, who plies the Bagong Monumento route, agreed when asked by the inquirer on Independent Street.

He said that early in the day, he had to accept ₱8 each from ten to fifteen passengers because they started shouting at him when he told them about the fare hike.

"They thought I was trying to put one over them. I still didn't have a fare matrix so I just let them be," he said.

Buses, taxis also seek fare increase

From page A1

on Wednesday, but drivers and operators in Region Occidental province said the amount was not enough to offset the recent gasoline price increases.

Francisco Mendoza, LTFRB acting executive officer, said there but operators and drivers and groups had submitted petitions for fare adjustments to the board.

He said the petitioners outside of Metro Manila were the Southern Luzon Bus Operators (Sulbo) and the Provincial Bus Operators Association of the Philippines (PBOAP).

Mendoza identified the other bus group seeking a fare hike as Inter-City Bus Operators Association (ICBOA), which operates in Metro Manila.

The petition for a taxi fare hike were the Philippine Metrorail Taxi Association, Metro Cebu Taxi Operators Association, Taxi Operators in Metro Manila, Association of Taxi Operators of Pasay, JMA Transport, R & E Transport and EPE Transport.

Aircon, ordinary buses

Mendoza said the bus operators were seeking five increases for aircon and ordinary buses.

He said Sulbo was asking the LTFRB to raise the minimum fare for ordinary buses to P7.50 from P6.50 for the first 5 kilometers and for aircon buses to P60 from P48 for the first 20 km.

PBOAP wanted a minimum fare of P12, up from P8.50, for ordinary buses for the first 5 km and P58, up from P40, for air con buses for the first 20 km.

The Metro Manila bus operators were seeking a P4 increase from P20 to P24 for ordinary buses and a P5 increase from P32 to P37 for aircon buses for the first 5km.

Airport taxi

Two categories of taxi operators—those who own units outsourced at the airport and those who own units coming from—have different fare hike petitions, according to Mendoza.

Airport taxi operators were seeking for a P30 increase from P70 to P100 for the first 500 meters and a P5 increase from P4 to P7 for every succeeding 300 meters.

Boxing fans were seeking a P50 increase for the flag down rate to P60 and a P5 increase to P4.50 for every 300 meters.

Mendoza said the Department of Transportation and Communications saw the fare increase as a temporary solution to the continuing increases in fuel prices.

He said Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas was pushing a program to promote e-vehicles and to convert vehicles so they could use liquefied petroleum gas.

'Not enough'

In Bacolod City, the labor, business and transport sectors were not happy with the 50-centavo provisional fare hike for jeepneys.

"It is not enough. It will not cover the drivers' loss of income," said Jessie Ortega, secretary general of the United Negros Drivers Operators Center.

Instead of a fare hike, he said the Oil Deregulation Law should be reviewed and the expanded value-added tax (VAT) on petroleum products removed.

A 50-percent cut in VAT can ease the problems of drivers and operators, but President Aquino chose to ignore their plight, Ortega said.

Frank Carbon, president of the Metro Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the fare increase on top of rising fuel prices would further push up the prices of basic commodities.

Like Ortega, Carbon called for a review of the Oil Deregulation Law to reduce the burden on the people.

Wage increase

Labor leader Myrnin Sarabia maintained that the fare increase would bolster the call for a wage increase.

But Carbon said the fare increase would also drive up the prices of commodities, which, in turn, would render whatever gain the workers get from any wage adjustment.

He added that a huge number of workers in the informal sector not covered by wage increases would suffer the most.

Loren, Chiz lead 2013 Senate race, poll shows

From page A1

yesterday by the Inquirer. The recommissioned survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Jack Enrile at No. 5

Respondents were asked to provide a multiple response (up to 12 names allowed) when asked who would they vote for if the 2013 elections were held today. The respondents were provided with a list of possible senatorial candidates.

Former Sen. Mar Roxas, now transportation and communications secretary, had a voter preference of 42.8 percent, the lowest clench by Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano with 41.6 percent and Cagayan Rep. Juan Ponce "Jack" Enrile Jr. with 38.2 percent.

Representative Enrile is the son and namesake of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who has been widely praised as the presiding officer in the ongoing impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Former Vice President Noli de Castro secured the ninth slot with 34.6 percent.

Completing the Magic 12 were Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV (33.7 percent), Sen. Gregorio Honasan II (32.1 percent), Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile (29.9 percent) and Senate Secretary Lelia de Lima (26.6 percent).

Legarda, Escudero, Cayetano, Trillanes, Honasan and Pimentel are all eligible to seek a second six-year term.

Biggest gainers

Compared with the Nov. 2011 survey on senatorial preferences by Pulse Asia, Jack Enrile and Trillanes were the biggest gainers.

From eighth place in the previous survey, the younger Enrile shot up to fifth place in the latest survey while Trillanes moved up to the seventh slot from 11th place.

Kris Aquino

Three former senators would have a statistical chance of winning seats this year in 2013: Rodolfo Biazon, now Muntinlupa congressman, (33.5 percent); Juan Miguel Zubiri (32.4 percent); and Sen. Gabriela Bautista (21.8 percent).

The survey also included other prominent personalities such as former Housing Secretary Michael Defensor (21.3 percent), President Aquino's sister, Kris Aquino (28.7 percent); former Gov. Richard Gordon (28.3 percent); TV host Willie Revillame (20.2 percent); and Vice President Jejomar Binay's eldest daughter Ms. Leonor "Nancy Binay (19.3 percent).

Of the 23 incumbent senators, five senators will be ending their second term in 2013. They are Panfilo Lacson, Jinkee Arroyo, Edgardo Angara, Francis Escudero and Manuel Villar.

Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara and former La Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar are being groomed to replace Angara and Villar, respectively. Michael Lim Ubac

LEGARDA

ESCUDERO

ROXAS

CAYETANO

ENRILE JR.

DE CASTRO

TRILLANES

HONASAN

EJERCITO

PIMENTEL

FALGUI

DE LIMA

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste
SPORTS

Barako Bull whips Petron, boosts playoff hopes

By Maong R. Castillo

BOISWET White fired 40 points and had 21 rebounds and Mick Pennisi stole the show with a dramatic eventual and very before Barako Bull ousted Petron Blaze, 94-86, which kept the Energy in the hunt for a quarterfinal berth in the PBA Commissioner's Cup.

DAPPIT Nickname of Petron Blaze (middle) finds himself trapped by the defense of Barako Bull's Rodney White (left) and Ronald Tubid.

AUGUST Oliver Cruz

White, who rolled up the season's first triple double of 19 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists in an 89-82 victory over Meralco last Saturday, was virtually unstoppable as the Energy rose to 4-4, now tied for fifth seventh.

New Petron import Bill McDonald got treated out of the count with 8:43 left in the second period after he threw the ball in the head of Dennis, who did a good screaming job—although, was delayed—of falling to the floor after the incident, eliciting laughter from both benches and the Smart Araneta Coliseum crowd.

Pennisi's scene already wrecked on Twitter and was getting numerous hits on YouTube and more than that, even Barako Bull coach Jamel Bardi said "the flop" helped his team, without taking credit many from his players who cheered their hearts out.

"I was surprised at how there [Dennis] reports, and we were lucky that he got thrown out," Bardi told reporters. "It would have been a different story had he been around to finish the game."

White scored in double figures in each of the first three periods, and had eight double points in the fourth just when the Boosters rated running toward 22-point double-by-one reaching from the three-point region.

His three-point play to the several period gave the Energy its biggest lead, 32-20, practically sealing Petron's doom.

Nine or three, out of 6 all-time hot week, notched a second straight win and greatly hampered B-White's top two bid later in the night with a 16/5-05 spurt which saw Duke Crews toss in 20 points that were with 16 rebounds.

The Llamados dropped out of a first place tie with Talk 'N Text at 5-3, while the Elasto-Painters improved to 3-3.

Barako Bull									
Boiswet	40	21	3	2	1	2	4	5	36
Pennisi	19	12	11	1	0	1	2	3	36
Tubid	12	3	2	1	0	0	1	2	36
Ilagan	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Totals	94	46	16	4	1	3	7	10	240
Petron									
Dennis	20	16	2	1	0	1	3	4	36
Crews	20	16	2	1	0	1	3	4	36
Totals	86	82	16	3	1	2	6	8	240

Quarters: 20-20, 32-20, 74-62, 94-86

Barako Bull: Boiswet 40, White 19, Pennisi 12, Tubid 12, Ilagan 2, Ayaay 0, Mallari 0, Ramos 0, Lao 0, Cruz 0, Dela Cruz 0, Mendoza 0, Ilagan 0

Petron: Dennis 20, Crews 20, Ilagan 12, Ayaay 12, Mallari 6, Ramos 6, Lao 2, De Guzman 2, Castelo 0, Mendoza 0

Referees: Tiongco, Lagos, Lagos

Marquee SEA teams up next for PH Azkals

By Gutoff P. Tapas

A SERIES of friendly matches against powerhouse sides in the Southeast Asian region in June will be the next assignment for the Philippine Azkals, who are coming off a third place finish in the AFC Challenge Cup in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Azkals coach Michael Weiss said three are plans for four friendly matches from June 2-12, preferably against Southeast Asian top teams Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

"That will be important because these are massive matches against the strongest contenders for the Suzuki Cup," said Weiss, who will now focus his attention on the home-and-away series where the Azkals reached the semifinals two years ago in Vietnam.

"The objective of our team is to play and become stronger," Weiss said. "It's important that we have our best available players for the matches to really see where we stand."

Weiss is tampering expectations to the home set for him to put the success of the national side on a "realistic platform."

The Azkals won three matches—against Tajikistan, India and Palestine—and lost two to Brazilian fourth Iranian and Turkmenistan in the Challenge Cup as the country posted its best finish, but Weiss said reminding the success is easier said than done.

The Azkals pulled off the third-place finish even without some of their best players in Stephan Schrock, Jerry Lucena and Dennis Cagara, who are tied up with their respective European clubs during the tournament. But the three players are inclined to join the side in June as it is part of the Fifa calendar.

"This is a match we're going on [so] you will only realize this 10 to 15 years from now," said Weiss of the Azkals' impressive run in Nepal.

"There's no problem now because everything is on the rise. But the foundation will come. To put this in a stable platform is the challenge for all the people involved and people who make decisions."

The Azkals will take a one-month break as players return to their respective clubs in the United Football League.

Hail the Azkals, down with P-Noy

BARE EYE

Meyrah Fernandez

WHAT'S the difference between President Aquino and the national football team Azkals?

They are certified warriors in their respective turf, the national political field and the Asian football front.

This was agreed upon during an impromptu birthday bash among several Lasangan leaders and self-styled sportsmen in Pinkaclan, Mandaluyong City on Tuesday.

The group likewise agreed that:

1) President Noynoy is waging a grievous against corruption.

2) The Azkals have just emerged triumphant from stinging challenges in their character as teams.

* * *

By the way, before the gathering, now fueled by San Mig Lights and spiked by requisite Knorr-Hollandaise and Black Label whiskey, get hotly divided, a raucous poll was also taken on the Chief Justice Renato Corona impeachment case.

There was a near unanimous (88 percent) submission Corona would have to go, either by conviction or resignation.

The lone poll was done minutes before it was learned through text messages that a Pulse Asia survey showed almost half of the respondents (47 percent) said Corona is guilty, while only five percent believed he is innocent of charges.

* * *

City Councilor Louie Biglang-awa, who listens in order to savor Lasallian Claudio Mentoza, Abakada party-list and other national issues, topped by the Corona impeachment, was being amused by a terse, misguided leadership.

Tsaday Pete Tampus, master of lasHernando, La Union who salutes President Manny Pacquiao, said President Aquino should be supported by all in his anti-corruption crusade.

Through it all, while sweeping back to the Azkals' adventure in the recent AFC Challenge Cup, nobody disputed the heart-warming fact that, yes, the national hunters gave their all, fought tooth-and-nail, for flag and country.

* * *

Not only that, it was also observed that the Azkals, strong suit once but twice, sprang back like wounded tigers in the battlefield.

The first blow, an accusation by Gilmy Ramos, daughter of former President Ramos, about an alleged sexual harassment, had the team losing its balance on the eve of departure for battle in the Kathmandu.

Then not there in battle, after sensational wins over former champion India and classy Tajikistan, the Azkals suffered an abominable slip and dropped what looked like a winning match against Turkmenistan.

* * *

The Azkals refused to stay down and sink.

They trained rode—after having boldly overcome the usual human inconsistencies...on the stinging 1-2 Turkmenistan victory—to Bhutan, 4-1, for a grandstands for the heroine medal.

German coach Michael Weiss said they deserved more than chief place.

"We had some difficult things to overcome and some difficult times to overcome but we've managed it in a wonderful way," Weiss explained.

* * *

Meanwhile, himself young by criticisms against perceived inconsistencies on urgent problems, topped by galloping prices of fuel and daily commodities, President Aquino commendably broadened off everything as unimportant.

"It does not merit attention, I have all the statistics," Pnoy slammed back at critics, who had hit him for his "carefree" style (Noynoying) of addressing national problems.

When put to a vote by the birthday group, the President, in comparison to the near-unanimous jab at Justice Corona, received an overwhelming thumbs-down verdict.

Mind you, President Aquino had been "impeached" not only by Noynoying.

He got rejected for refusing to be stung by concentrated criticisms.

He got voted down for shunning insensitivity.

Hail the Azkals!

Fifa posts World Cup on YouTube

ZURICH—The International Football Federation (Fifa) has increased its use of social media by launching a YouTube channel showing highlights from iconic World Cup matches.

Fifa says it will add features as preparations for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, streaming live media events and other international tournament matches.

The channel was launched by screening clips from five 2010 South Africa matches, including Spain's 2-0 win against Honduras and the United States beating Algeria 1-0.

Fifa President Sepp Blatter says YouTube users should be able to watch "the greatest moments" of World Cup history. AP

ALBERTO Lira (fifth from left) backs arms with special guests (from left) counselor for Social and Cultural Affairs of Indonesia Alfonsa Sudarsono, Department of Tourism's Cynthia Lazo, director of the Embassy of Japan Kiyoshi Takeuchi, PhilCycling president and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham Tolentino, Police chief superintendent Agrimero Cruz, Dynamic Outsource Solutions, Inc. president and race organizer Gary Cuizon and Mall and More president Jojo Lontoc during yesterday's launch.

Short but tough Le Tour de Filipinas slated

By Marc Anthony Reyes

KOTEMAN Two campaigners Rusty Barnachea and Erick Rabaniscos will lead 30 local riders who will ride against 45 foreign rivals in third Le Tour de Filipinas set April 14-17.

The 810.1MB Tour will make stops at some of the country's top tourist destinations in Sta. Ana and Tuguegarao in Cagayan and in Nueva Ecija before winding up at the famed Summer Capitol of Baguio City.

"I am happy to announce that the Le Tour de Filipinas is still sanctioned by the UCI. We made it possible that we are listed in the calendar of UCI activities this year where we went to Malaysia," said PhilCycling Competition Cycling federation of the Philippines president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino during yesterday's press launch at Connecticut Ballroom at the Manila Hotel.

Tolentino attended the OCI meeting in Kuala Lumpur last Feb. 14 to 18 where the world body also gave its blessings to the 23rd Asian Cycling Championships, first Asian Under-23, and 19th Asian Juniors which will be held in the next few months around the region.

The four-route will pass by the eastern side of Luzon instead of the traditional western parts in Pangasinan and La Union. It will also feature a never-before-tried access to Region 2 covering Hill kilometers of hilly country roads.

Prizes will be given to the Best Young Rider, King of the Mountain, Best in Sprint and for the top five local teams.

Joins will still be the route to host local cyclists' teams to join up a stiffer challenge this time, forcing the tough local squads are last year's third placer Smart, GoJek, LPGA/American Vinyl, Mail and More, Rin and Jobbet.

Foreign teams include CCN and RTS/Giant Kinda from Cignie. Selpol, Terengganu of Malaysia, CICBC of Singapore, Pure Black of New Zealand, Scott of Uzbekistan, Plan Evil Australia, Asian Racing Team of Japan, Golcan Mobe of Indonesia and Dutch Global of Netherlands.

Messi now Barcelona's official leading scorer

BARCELONA, Spain—Lionel Messi hit a hat trick to become Barcelona's all-time leading scorer and keep the defending Spanish champions in the title chase with a 5-1 win over Granada on Tuesday.

Less than two months after scoring a Champions League record five times, the three-time world player of the year took his career club tally to 234 goals, beating a 57-year-old milestone held by Cesar Rodriguez by two goals.

Messi set up Xavi Hernandez's opener before extending Barcelona's lead in the 17th.

And after Granada surprisingly rallied with two quick goals after halftime, Messi scored once more to secure the win, rounding his eighth hat trick of the season.

"Messi doesn't score goals, he scores incredible goals," Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola said. "Messi has restored into the history of the club. I want to thank the entire team for the great game and Messi for his achievement."

Barcelona's sixth consecutive league victory reduced leader Real Madrid's advantage to five points, turning up the pressure on its arch-rival to avoid a costly slip as Villarreal on Wednesday that could tighten the title head further.

"When it looked like we had the game under control they scored off a set piece, but then we got it together and got back to creating scoring chances," said Barcelona defender Gerard Pique. "Mathematically, we still have up-hill for the league."

Messi has 17 goals during a seven-game scoring streak and leads La Liga with 24 goals, two ahead of Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo.

The hat-trick was Messi's 18th for Barcelona and gave him 234 goals in his last 255 games over three seasons. He is the last to do it in La Liga this season for the record holder Fernando Torres.

True to its style, Barcelona dominated possession from the start and soon began toying with the visitors after Xavi put his team ahead four minutes in. AP

PH women's boxing team goes 2-0 as Aparri smashes foe

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia—Flyweight titlist Rose Ann Aparri made it a perfect four-for-four for the PLDT-sponsored team with an impressive debut in the title bout Women's Boxing Championships here.

The 27 year-old Baguio lass, the most senior female boxer in the national pool, trashed hapless Ho Meng—think of Olivares' Taipei, 13-0.

The win came on the heels of Merlita Morales's resounding 12-5 victory over another Taiwanese, Wan-Hu, in the featherweight class co-opening day Monday.

That figure was a three-time SEA Games gold medalist and a World Championships bronze medalist under her belt but not so Meng, who backpedaled most of the way trying to avoid the powerful combinations from the Hotel and Restaurant Management graduate from the University of Baguio.

Light flyweight Josie Gabuco, a gold medalist in the last two SEA Games and a bronze medalist in the 2008 World Championships, gets going Wednesday against tough Yukie Lee of the People's Republic of China.

Both fighters drew a bye in the first round of the tournament, which draws 81 participants from 17 nations and territories.

Later in the day Petecio will try to bump in the medal round when she takes on Scott Reeves (ORE) On Jong Chou.

Delegation head and Alaska executive director Ed Picson acknowledged the tough competition in the event serving as warmup for the women's Olympic qualifying event in China in May.

"We've had relatively light competition since the start of the year," Picson said. "Video Cam' denies of leaving Lin at the company undisclosed duress from our shared sense of passion, dynamism and progressiveness."

"We believe Jeremy Lin's character, intelligence, perseverance, and pursuit of excellence are perfectly in tune with Volvo Cars' core values," added Richard Mountjoy, vice president of marketing of Volvo Cars.

"You may not immediately associate Jeremy Lin with Volvo Cars," said Lin. "But both of us are striving to be better and smarter at what we do, and to do it our own way."

Reuters

LIN

Subic World on golf show

A REMIX of Golf goes up North with hosts Duncan, Ely and Gabby trading barbs from four holes at Subic Bay's World in Olongapo with SUN CEL John Bribiesca and ex-Marcelo Longboard 6 p.m. on Solar Sports at Global Destiny (Ch 31), Sky Cable Digital (Ch 53), and Castelink. (Ch 31).

More on top 4 a stagnant on golf coverage by Sky Fitness Manila Shores expert Rob Ruiz Golf Channel.com/Castelink host the hosts the right golf product.

Sidelights

The Philippines suffered heavy losses in the third day of competition at the Philippine Amateur International Junior Tennis Championships.

Nothing through the first day, only 16 year old Marian Jade Capadocia and 15 year old Jeremiah Jimenez Dechitan were able to survive the cut to the second of 32.

Two Girls Singles title has been won by a Filipino before but never by the pair, with Francesca Lei O (1991) and 1992) and Kristine Kay Tan (1993), and 1995) winning the crown twice each, and Jennifer Limi (1981) once.

But the Boys Singles proved to be elusive for the local campaigners as no Filipino has won a title.

The closest the country got so far was last year when Jason Patrimonio reached the semifinals of the Australian Andrew Whittington. Patrimonio, in after as he is hardly tested, has since graduated to the boys' circuit, where he is currently the highest ranked Filipino player at #408.

Fortunately in the Doubles Competition, the record #4 is #4 in the Philippines, and #1 in the Philippines. The top time was when 2009 Australian Open Boys Doubles champs Patrick Lewis Alcantara reached over a back-to-back #1 weight with different partners.

Alcantara partnered with Daniel Barte of Sweden to win the 2009 Boys Doubles crown. The following year, he teamed up with the American Raymond Sarmiento to capture the same title.

NLEX, Cafe France gun for share of top spot

REUNITED champion NLEX and Cafe France gun for a share of the lead when they clash against separate rivals in the PBA D-League Foundation Cup at the Ynares Sports Arena today.

The Road Warriors, who sealed the beginning Cup last month, shoot for their second win against RAYF Pueblo Paper at 4 p.m., while Cafe France also has the same target in their 2 p.m. date against Pop Cola.

NLEX opened the tournament in style, overcoming Big Chill, 80-75, behind the hard-working Calvin Abueva, who tallied 18 points and eight rebounds.

The Northwestern are hoping to bounce back from a listless performance against Rochester Elite, which dealt them a 67-66 beating in opening day.

The Road Warriors have warned the rest of the squad that they will be the last two contenders of the D-League.

Filipino-American Cliff Hodge and Chris Ellis are still around to power NLEX, which particularly owes Fergus Jones in the finals in the last conference. Adding strength to the attack is Rick Ilang.

Cafe France also got off auspiciously with a 74-57 rout of Erwin Pinamonte last week.

Jose Rizalite is out for Cafe France.

The game will mark the return of coach Robert Sison, who last been tasked to handle Big Chill.

Gerald P. Papico

HIGH flying act: Chris Bosh (front) dips past Phoenix Suns counterpart Marcin Gortat on his way to the hoop. AFP

Knicks on a roll; Heat burn Suns

NEW YORK—Inflamed and clobbered by Philadelphia 10 days ago, the New York Knicks see nothing into the rematch with their streaking rivals.

"Guys, we playing at a very high, established level right now," Carmelo Anthony said. "We just want to battle that up and move on and keep it going."

Amare Stoudemire had 22 points and 12 rebounds, Jeremy Lin added 18 points and 10 assists, and the Knicks improved to 4-0 under Mike Woodson by beating the Toronto Raptors 108-97 on Tuesday night.

Anthony and Tyson Chandler each scored 17 points for the Knicks, who bring a seven-game winning streak to Philadelphia on Wednesday night for a matchup with the Atlantic Division-leading 76ers. The Knicks rode another night of balanced scoring and renewed defensive intensity to a double-digit lead for most of the final three quarters, leaping in celebration after a series of strong interior plays in the fourth.

"They're feeding good. Having fun, enjoying the game of basketball, and that's what it's about," Stoudemire said. "When you enjoy doing your job, then it makes it much easier to play and that's what's happening right now."

"They're a tenacious, different team," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "It's amazing, their remaining the way they attack. If you don't guard it, they take you out."

In Miami, the Heat evoked a starting run of 17 unanswered points to turn imminent defeat into a 99-95 comeback victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Phoenix led, 99-93, with seven and half minutes before the opening Heat run.

"It was either lose or serve," Miami's Dwyane Wade, who had 39 points, told reporters. "They were playing very well. We were down 18 and had to make a move."

Chris Bosh scored a game-high 26 points, while LeBron James added 20 points, eight rebounds and six assists for Miami.

Phoenix (33-33), who had ridden a four-game winning streak into playoff contention, got a team-high 19 points from Grant Hill.

Wade and James collided while chasing the ball in the final seconds of the game and Miami's medical staff remained on the floor for a couple minutes before returning to his feet.

CHRIS BOSH: Rebounds #12 taken Hit Any G Number 66 Bosh, 9th, Nat Rebounds Bosh 9 Hit Bosh 66

Mendoza, Capadocia rip foes, gain 3rd round

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ROBINSON Dwight Mendoza and Marian Jade Capadocia crushed their respective rivals yesterday to reach the third round of the 23rd Milo-Smith Lenore International Junior tennis championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Unlike in Tuesday's first round when both needed three set victories, Mendoza and Capadocia produced emphatic wins this time that validated their bids to advance to the quarterfinals.

The 15-year-old Mendoza used his vast experience and training with the PH Davis Cuppers to stun fourth seed Jerard Perales of Australia, 6-1, 6-4.

Capadocia, already a finalist last Asian Games medalist and the PCA Open women's singles champ at its earlier Robinson's 140, used Klaudia Lichtenberg of Belgium, 6-1, 6-1, in the female 1 tournament for players 18 years and younger.

The PCA Open men's singles runner-up was heavily challenged in the 30-minute match, using his consistent baseline game to frustrate Perales who, in a fit of disgust, threw down his racket a few times throughout the match.

Mendoza ranked 248th in the world, will face the world-ranked 190th ranked Lucchesi of China and Simeon Bonev of Switzerland, who were still playing at press time.

Up next for Capadocia is another seeded foe in Rafael Kapilevich, the third seed from the Czech Republic, who survived Indie's tough-fighting Tomko Vasilis, 8-7 (7-5), 6-1, 6-2.

COACHES and team supervisors are get together after an organizational meeting with Filoil Flying V officials and representatives. Pictures were (seated, from left) Alvin del Rosario, former commissioner and Filoil Flying V executive Virgil Villaviconcio, and commissioners Pepe Sanchez, Ato Bautista, Bert del Rosario and Jose Lee.

Seventh FilOil Flying V tourney launched

NEED two of college hoops?

The 2012 Filoil Flying V Pre-Season Cup tips off the seven-off to seventh season on April 14 at the Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The three-month long tournament, presented by Boom Philippines, was formally launched yesterday at the Bagong Diwa restaurant in Tomas Morato in Quezon City with a press conference and an organizational meeting attended by the team managers, coaches and representatives of the participating teams.

Also present were top officials of Filoil Flying V Sports, led by league chair, former PBA player Boyet Fernando, and the event's commissioner corporation Ato Bautista, Andy Bautista, Boy Sanchez, Bert delos Reyes and Joey Lee.

Bautista presided over the meeting, which was attended by representatives of the conference commissioner and Jun Bonoto, chief of the table officials.

All eight SMAP schools, along with the 10 member schools of the NCAA, will participate in the tournament. Only one school, UE, won't field a team in the juniors division, as the going passed to Xavier School.

Anyone in Manila will be back to defend the title it won last year at the expense of San Beda College. The Filoil Flying V Cup roster of champions include: DLSU, 12006, 2007), CE (2008), HD (2009) and SSCR (2010).

Below is the tournament's 08 cutback.

Coach E continues low-ratio basketball program

TWO COACH E Basketball Academy in conducting its eighth anniversary and part of its commitment to its continue providing high quality of service throughout low coach-student ratio.

"Because of our low coach-student ratio, we can easily identify the players based on their skills and ages and exchange to bring them more effective," said coach's Efficiency.

Coach E Basketball School's Summer Fifth elementary camp will open opening summer classes starting April 10, Interested parties can call Coach E Basketball School at 8816432 and 413 1106 or text him to 09189945041 or e-mail to coache@coach-e.com.

The school has its own website (www.coach-e.com) and its Facebook (facebook.com/coachebasketballschool) and Twitter (@coachebball).

TRS-Castrol kids eye better show

THE TRS-Castrol karting team seeks another fruitful race on their way to the big leagues in the Petron Racing Series this Sunday at the Carmona Racetrack.

With Carnegie, Arthur "Art" Tuason and Ryan Jordan will spearhead the little kids for the TRS-Castrol Kids powered by Castrol. Bridgestone. Standard bearers: CI Mag-aches, OMP, Lotus Dirt, Sabiku, Agusta and Toptul.

Carnegie and Tuasonson to dominate the 80 Cadet Open Class the race is after winning a pole sitter up and three places respectively, last year.

RACING TIMES

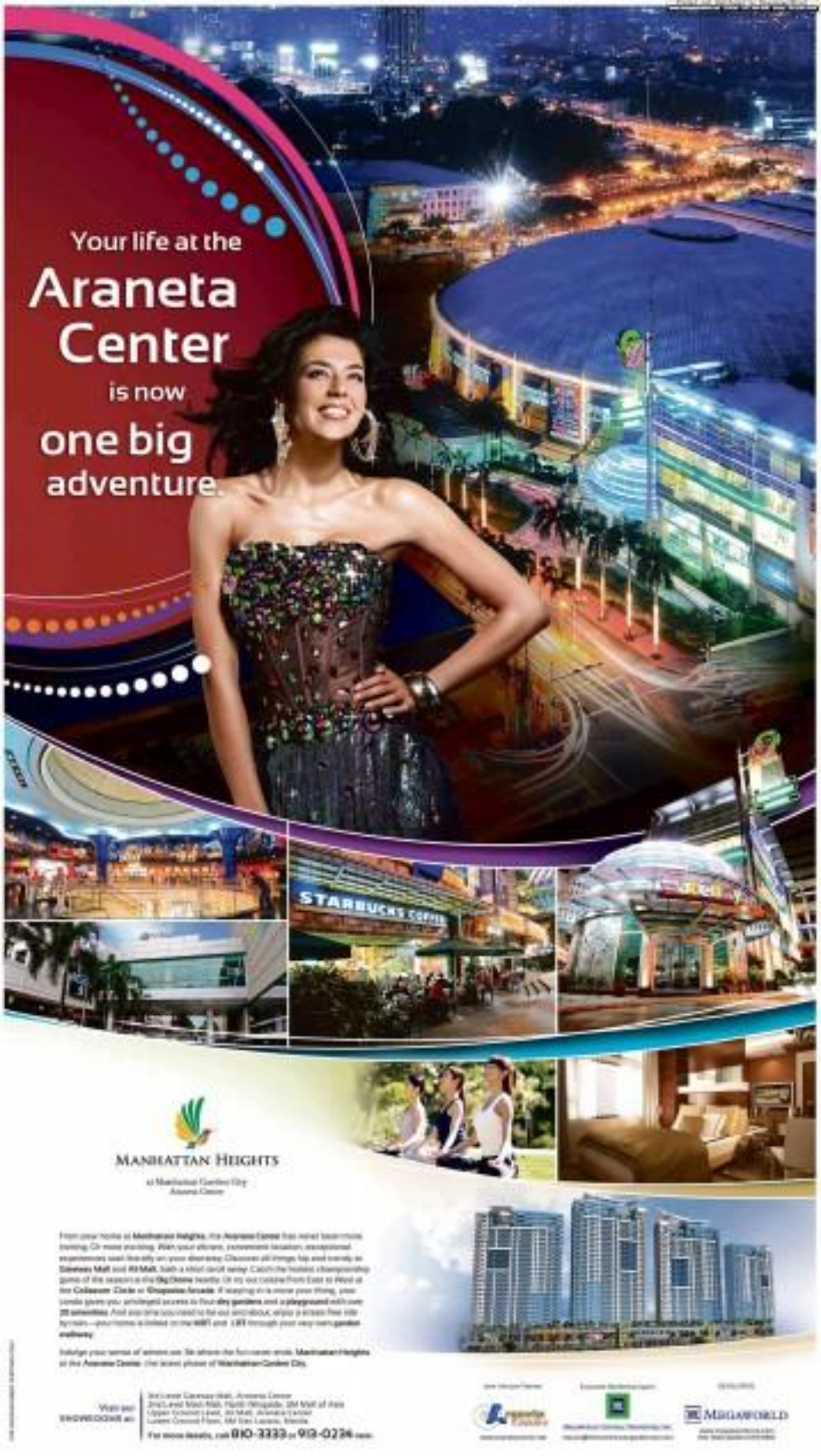
By Top Ebuka Gumi-Ara Fuck

Race 1—(5-6-7-8-9-10)—Hangout (1) Golden Fortune (2) Shadow (3) Racing Champion (4) Don't Be Down Mountain (5) Sweet Lady (6) Lucky Star (7) Lucky Girl (8) Lucky Lady (9) Lucky Lucky (10) Lucky Lucky Lucky

Race 2—(1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10)—Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky

Race 3—(1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10)—Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky

Race 4—(1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10)—Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky Lucky



MANHATTAN HEIGHTS

at Manhattan Garden City
Araneta Center

From your home at **Manhattan Heights**, the **Araneta Center** has never been more inviting. Or more exciting. With your efficient, convenient location, exceptional experiences await literally on your doorstep. Discover all things hip and trendy at **Gateway Mall** and **Ali Mall**, both a short stroll away. Catch the hottest championship game of the season at the **Big Dome** nearby. Or try our cuisine from East to West at the **Coliseum Circle** or **Shopwise facade**. If shopping is a more your thing, your condo gives you privileged access to four **sky gardens** and a **playground** with over **20 amenities**. And any time you need to be out and about, enjoy a stress-free ride to work—your home is linked on the **MRT** and **LRT** through your very own **garden walkway**.

Indulge your sense of senses as well. Be where the fun never ends. **Manhattan Heights** at the **Araneta Center**. One iconic phrase of **Manhattan Garden City**.

Visit our SHOWROOMS at:

3rd Level Gateway Mall, Araneta Center
2nd Level Main Mall, Ayala Alabang, 2M Mall of Asia
Upper Ground Level, Ali Mall, Araneta Center
Lower Ground Floor, Mid Sto Lazaro, Manila

For more details, call 810-2333 or 912-0236 nationwide

Joint Venture Partners

Araneta Center

Exclusive Marketing Agent

Megaworld

Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

Video war game sparks real-life murder
GAME OVER.
A man was stabbed to death in Las Piñas following a row between two groups of men playing the popular shooting video game "Counter Strike," police said on Wednesday.
The quarrel between the men playing the game—in which gamers playing either two teams or online foes try to kill their opponents—erupted in an Internet cafe in Barangay Talon, P01 Noel Rubio said.
The teams had P300 as the outcome of their competition.
VIDEO A19

Newsman links attacker to Pasig cops

Ambush occurred after EPD chief told that drug suspect 'paid P5M'

By Norman Bordadora and Nina Calleja

CONNECT the dots.

Finally breaking his silence after his March 11 shooting, journalist Ferdinand Angeles said he was ambushed by a group of men led by an alleged drug dealer "24 hours" after he alerted the chief of the Eastern Police District (EPD) about the suspect's dealings with some Pasig City police officers.

Angeles, a Daily Tribune reporter currently assigned to the Palace, remained unmoved to the Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC) yesterday, 10 days after he was shot seven times near his Pasig residence.

Fourteen hours before the attack that Sunday night, the reporter said, he sent a text message to EPD Director Chief Supt. Francisco Marcelo detailing how the Pasig City police had "just arrested" one Faisal Imtiyaz and confiscated half a kilo of shabu, two guns and P850 in cash from the latter.

In his message to Marcelo, he also said Faisal was supposedly made "to pay P500,000 for his freedom" and "to help the cops nab the smuggling ringleader."

"I was alerted by a group of men led by the very subject I reported to him (Marcelo). Intercepting how that very subject, Faisal, traced the lead of each (also) motion," Angeles said in his statement.

Angeles said he texted Marcelo that day to get the EPD chief's reaction to information linking the members of the EPD and Pasig police to the drug trade.

"I was hoping to get a reaction or at least a clarification as where they could stop moving (against those involved). Instead, I got a reply saying 'text d info,'" he said.

ANGELES

Angeles said his text message was apparently "used as an instrument by a high profile police officer in hoping to remove (what looks like his name from the huge loot that his cops took from Faisal."

On Saturday, the Pasig City police formally announced the arrest of Faisal but later shuttled that claim and ordered to clear his name.

On the night he was shot, Angeles was able to whisper "the name of Faisal to his wife Gemma before losing consciousness at the hospital, according to investigators.

Sought for comment, Marcelo confirmed receiving a text message from Angeles prior to the shooting, "but I was already relieved at that time. In fact, that afternoon, I was on my way to Pangasinan," Marcelo told the Inquirer in the phone.

"I thanked him for the information and then I forwarded it to the Pasig police chief (Senior Supt. Jessie Corsiga)," Marcelo said.

He said he then asked Corsiga to verify the information and act with dispatch.

"(The (Angeles) is talking about a 'high police official' (in his statement). I don't know about that," Marcelo added.

EPD deputy director Senior Supt. Antonio Gumiran said "we are trying to talk to General Marcelo and the Pasig police about this matter," Gumiran said.

"We have only one request to him (Angeles): Please give us names. Don't just say a certain official because then we or many of us here and we are all being dragged into this," Gumiran said.

As to the reported pending warrant for his arrest in connection with a 2011 drug possession case, Angeles said, "they should have arrested me long ago if I had were true."

"That cheap trash stunt have been ordered to the older colonists I wrote for the defunct Philippine Centerfold Optional on how dirty the Pasig (PCP) is," Angeles said.

Angeles earlier is mulled that gunmen cops house before his scheduled surgery on Wednesday. The operation would be on his left lung which was hit during the March 11 attack.

"I've already accepted the fact that I may no longer be able to walk, or hold something many any right into. To me, sending this e-mail is already obvious, 'I'm out.'"

FROM PEST TO PRIZED CROP

Considered a nuisance that clogs river transport and causes flooding, water hyacinths have become a source of income for some residents in Taguig City who harvest the plant for its fibers, a tough raw material for home decor and fashion items. The man gathers up to 1,000 stalks a day, which he sells for P 10 a bundle.
AP, EDDIE MORE

Burnt mall to let tenants in, but . . .

By Kristine Felisse Mangaoang

PED UP with the accusation that its members were hiding something from the public in connection with their investigation into the fire-hexacerning the five-in Commonwealth Central Mall, the head of the Interagency Task Force announced the other day that he would allow store owners and other people inside the establishment but only on certain conditions.

"This is in the spirit of transparency . . . so the owners can see that the inside of the building is really 90 to 90 percent destroyed," said Senior Supt. Rosauro Jandoc of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

According to him, most of the tenant of the mall in Gilmore City were angry with the officials because they believed that some of their merchandise could still be saved.

Besides, Inocencio said that those who want to go inside the establishment—which may start on Thursday pending a go-signal from the mall management—should refer to Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo.

The latter would then be forwarded to the mall management which would be in charge of confirming whether or not the injury was a tenant.

Jandoc said that he would also go through the requests to make sure that none of the latter senders seek permission to pull out their merchandise from the building.

In a related development, Supt. Oscar de Asis, the Gilmore City fire marshal, confirmed to the press despite reports that he had been sacked.

Insp. Francisco Sergio, chief of the administration unit, said that although his office received notification morning a copy of the BFP order signed by BFP deputy chief Eric Inocencio Fabian Bureau turn-over, saying the appointment of Supt. Raul Jeremy Dan, as the fire replacement, the appointment had yet to be confirmed by Robredo.

QC cops to Muslim leaders: Let's talk

TROOPER commanded the Quezon City Police District is seeking a dialogue with leaders of local Muslim communities following recent attacks on police officers in these communities and providing compliments that they serve as informants in drug dealers.

QCPD director Chief Supt. Nicolas Dela Vega said this will be the next step following his meeting on Tuesday with the Quezon City Muslim Consultative Council headed by retired Supt. Jamael Ameratin.

Quezon City has about 25 mosques and four Muslim communities, namely Barangays Culiat, Fairmont, Payatas, and Sta. Monica, according to Dela Vega.

"We sought the help of the organization in preserving peace and order in their respective areas and communities," the police official said.

In December last year, a police officer died in an operation against illegal firecracker store owners in Payatas. Early this month, another police officer who was waiting for his daughter was stranded and shot dead by a group of men in Barangay Culiat.

Dela Vega noted, during Tuesday's meeting, members of the Muslim council have expressed their displeasure over reports that drug raiders had been seeking refuge in their communities to avoid arrest.

Tuesday's meeting was QCPD's first with the local Muslim community under Dela Vega's watch.

"We want to have a dialogue to prevent issues and to do as well as to ensure that our operations are up in force as much as," he said.

Dela Vega said QCPD plans to hold a dialogue with the Muslims at least once a month. Aella M. Arevalo

P'que subdivision robbery: Bank exec's kids tied to bed

By Nathaniel R. Mallozzi

THE PARAÑAQUE police are looking for four men who were able to get into a highly secure subdivision in the city, break in to the home of a bank manager and make off with a still undetermined amount of cash and several gadgets on Tuesday night.

Senior Insp. Ronnie Olla, chief of the Police Community Precinct 8, said that among those taken by the robbers were two liquid crystal display televisions, a laptop computer, an iPad and a BlackBerry cell phone.

The owners of the house at Phase 1 in Tinica, Barangay Moonwalk, were identified as Jocelyn Manlangit, a manager of a Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. branch, and his wife, Milagros, who works for the National Police Commission.

According to the statements of the maids in the house, the suspects, who rode the Isuzu Crosswind with plate number PDP 747, headed at their front gate at around 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Thinking it was the couple, she opened the gate for them," Olla said in a telephone interview.

Once inside the house, the robbers who were all armed and wearing masks, herded all of the occupants—two maids, the couple's two young children and the child of one of the maids—into the master bedroom.

The victims were then tied to the bed while the armed men ransacked the house before fleeing with their loot.

Around 30 minutes later, the couple arrived at the house, discovered the hoist and immediately reported it to the police.

Aside from the electronic gadgets, the police said the robbers also took a still undetermined amount of money and jewelry.

Olla suspected that the Chinese had been monitoring the family's movements for some time because they were familiar with the couple's routine.

He added that security at the subdivision was also tight and that non-residents could not easily get in.

Filipinos don't assert their rights

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

I TOOK the early morning Cebu Pacific flight from Davao City to Manila Tuesday.

When my plane arrived at the new Aquino International Airport Public 2 terminal, the passengers were told to go down the plane into the airport ramp.

Then, we were unable to climb a flight of stairs to the terminal lobby.

I pitied Sally Castro, a fellow passenger who could barely walk.

Nobody among the Cebu Pacific employees at the airport thought of buddy carrying her down the plane.

Inside Naia 2 terminal, I saw Castro on a wheelchair, finally assisted by a member of the Cebu Pacific ground crew on the runway.

I cringed when I saw how a forklift nearly bumped into the disabled woman's wheelchair which was making its way into a mass of cargo and vehicles under the plane's ramps.

Why were the fellow passengers and I deprived of the comfort of using the airport ramp?

Why were we made to get off the plane, walk to the ramp and then go up another flight of stairs to reach the lobby?

Why were we not given the chance to disembark directly into the lobby.

I asked the Cebu Pacific ticket supervisor on duty about these concerns.

He told me that the rule was not working.

Passengers are required to pay terminal fees. Where do these fees go?

Isn't the money supposed to be spent for the upkeep of the airport?

* * *

Yes, Cebu Pacific charges lower fares than its rival, Philippine Airlines, but it gives lousy service.

Is that how it should be—have fare but lousy service?

* * *

My fellow passengers regarded the inconvenience as "just one of those things."

But one companion, Mari and Michelle, both Americans, were surprised why the other passengers could go and bear the hot, humid ways of the airline and the airport management when they had every right to complain.

I told them that many Filipinos don't assert their rights, that's why we continue to have an inefficient and corrupt government.

In fairness, though, President Noy is trying to address the twin problems of inefficiency and corruption.

* * *

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, the presiding officer of the impeachment court trying Chief Justice Renato Corona, should call a gallery of all the accusations brought against him.

"If we can summon to convict a person charged in court, then we do not need the courts. All we have to do is conduct a witch-hunt whenever somebody is charged," said the Harvard Law School graduate.

Not all judges have the same mentality as Enrile.

The judge who tried Hubert Webb and company in the Vizconde rape-massacre case was influenced by the mob which asked for the blood of the accused.

For that judge's injudicious decision, she was rewarded a seat in the Court of Appeals.

She is probably manifesting her brand of justice at the appellate court.

BOHOL II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Bid No. 2012-03

BOHOL II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BOHECO II) through its Board and Awards Committee (BAC), invites first-class eligible bidders to supply and deliver the following:

4.1 Materials/Tools and Equipment
Project: Materials, Tools and Equipment

Interested bidders may obtain information, secure bid or bidding documents through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at BOHECO II Main Office, Cabulao, Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

Bidding documents may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00).

Bidders or bidder's duly authorized representative holding valid ID's/credentials will be granted the privilege/authority to attend the bidding.

BOHECO II reserves the right to accept and reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for such action.

Approved by:

ENGR. VICTOR M. ALARCON
BAC Chairman

ATTY. CHARLES M. CHIU II
General Manager

Taguig 'e-graduation' service marches in

DID YOU KNOW

Of 1st-6 2159 students enrolling from rural secondary in Metro Manila from January to September 2011, 42 percent (121) were petitioners, 41 percent (119) were delivery artists, 17 percent (49) were pedicab operators, according to the latest data from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Juliet Bonilla, to serve Reward

FIRST, there was the *e-barrel* (online barrel of wafers), followed by the e-dalaw (online jail visit).

Now, the stage is set for "e-graduation."

The Taguig City government has launched an online service allowing family members and friends of graduating students in remote areas to witness the commencement having to be physically present at the venue.

This year's graduation rites in all public elementary and high schools in Taguig City will be covered and streamed live on the city government's website—http://www.taguig.gov.ph—and on the city's Facebook account.

"We are introducing this innovation so that friends and family members who will not be able to join our students during graduation can watch the ceremonies online," Taguig Mayor Lani Cayetano said in a statement yesterday.

The video streaming service will start on March 27 at 9 a.m., beginning with the graduation ceremonies of Signal Village Elementary School.

The live video feeds will be available to viewers in the Philippines and abroad.

City government spokesperson Dennis Iraola said "we can guarantee that the e-grad sessions will not suffer from any technical glitches. We are already looking for ways to improve the live streaming service for next year," he added.

Nathaniel R. Mallozzi

Welcome to the country's one & only true private cinema.

Greenbelt

Now accepting bookings for May to July 2012.

So for real quality shows, catch the limelight at Onanga Greenbelt

For bookings & inquiries, please call (+63) 7552 & 750-3001 to 02.

Greenbelt

BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE!

Visit your favorite Ayala Malls Cinemas' ticket booth

GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET! • MALA CENTER GEN. TRIAS • MANGGAHAN • MARIKINA

Purchase vouchers may now be purchased at these tickets by texting (Name/Name to 2919 (Globe/Smart) or log on to www.ayalamalls.com

OPENS MARCH 29 at AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to submit their respective proposals for the following:

Name of Project/ Brief Description	Procurement and Contract Systems Layout of Data Center - Office of the Governor as per BSP bidding specifications.
	Lot 1 - Supply and Delivery of Security Cable (CB) with Installation Equipment, Tools and Accessories for use in Physical Data Center with Peripherals
	Lot 2 - Refurnishing of Existing Desk Chairs

Item	Qty	Unit
1.1a	1	1 Unit/s Safe Deposit
1.1b	1	1 Unit/s Safe Deposit
1.1c	1	1 Unit/s Safe Deposit
1.1d	1	1 Unit/s Safe Deposit
1.1e	1	1 Unit/s Safe Deposit
1.1f	1	1 Unit/s Safe Deposit
1.1g	1	1 Unit/s Safe Deposit
1.1h	1	1 Unit/s Safe Deposit

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Lot #1:	₱
	1	₱
	2	₱
	Total:	₱
Delivery/Completion Period	The contract period shall be within 30 calendar days after receipt of a copy of the Notice of Award.	

Bidders should have completed a similar requirement awarded and completed from CY 2007 up to the present. Bidders must submit a Certificate of Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) computation sheet. Prospective bidders may inquire and purchase the Bidding Documents from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ₱5,000.00. The Bidding Documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the BSP, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of the Documents	Starting on March 2012 (from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon) 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. only) Procurement Office Room 310, 3rd Floor, Accessory Building A. Mabini corner T. Pinpin St. Manila Telefax No. 527-3265 Tel. No. 527-3265 or Tel. No. 526-1553
2. Pre-bid Conference	1:00 PM, Venue: as above
3. Opening of Bids	1:00 PM, Venue: as above
4. Bid Evaluation	Within one (1) or two (2) days after the prescribed period
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice (Award)	

The TOR and Checklist of Requirements for Bidders may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the BSP website. Bidders must submit their bids in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 and its revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Bidders are required to submit the following documents in support of their bids:

All prospective bidders must submit the Eligibility Documents and Technical Proposal in one (1) sealed envelope and the Financial Proposal in another sealed envelope, duly signed by the bidder or his duly authorized representative. Both envelopes shall be placed in one outer envelope and duly sealed. Bidders shall submit their bids on or before the deadline of submission of bids. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Bidders who have purchased the bidding documents shall be allowed to view or submit written queries or clarifications.

The BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, to waive formalities, and to reject all bids at any time prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. Furthermore, the BSP reserves the right to waive any minor defects or formalities and to accept the most advantageous to the agency.

Chair: ENRIQUE C. SORIANO
Chairman

09 Mar to 2012

Video war game . . .

From page A01

on Monday, but when one side won in separate battle over carry payment, said Ramos.

A member of the winning team, still unidentified, was also found to have killed a player first Cristobal, 25, in his house in Caimito Townhomes and stabbed him to death, he added.

"He (Cristobal) did not have the guard. He just got caught up in it. But they all had long been betting on Counter-Strike," said Ramos.

Police arrested three suspects: Reyes Bladrid, 19, and Jyan Rabadio, 19, also residents of Caimito Homes; and a certain "Paul" of San Roque, Tondo, Manila.

Authorities Wallozzi and AFP

METRO BRIEFS

Thieves take even baby clothes

A 500-driver and his cohort who was armed with a screwdriver robbed a Singaporean man of around P35,000 in valuables, including P1,000 worth of baby clothes, in Makati March 21 at around 3:45 p.m. yesterday. After leaving Mohammad Shariffuddin Mohamed Ibrahim, a 28-year-old civil engineer practically penniless, the two robbers dropped him off in Pembroke City and sped away in the car. Ibrahim, whose Filipino fiancee gave birth recently, had come to Manila from Sarnaya in Sarawa province and to buy clothes for their four-month-old baby. **Jeannette I. Andrade**

Taxi rob tandem shot dead

TWO SUSPECTS robbers in a taxi cab were killed in a shoot-out with policemen conducting a checkpoint on Payatas Road in Quezon City before dawn yesterday. The tandem also found the cab driver beaten to death with a tire tool and gagged with a towel but otherwise unharmed. Chief Supt. Wenie dela Vega of the Quezon City Police District said that they had yet to identify the two men who were flagged down by police from the Batasan police station led by Senior Insp. Roberto Ramos at around 1 a.m. A third man believed to be their companion escaped after the shoot-out. The police said that they flagged down the cab in front Holiday Inn Cubao and approached the standpoint, but instead of stopping, the driver stepped on the gas and sped away. The police team immediately gave chase until the other vehicle slowed down, and one part of the team got out and started shooting at their pursuers who fired back. When the two men who initiated the fire fight fell dead, their companion escaped on foot. Case investigator SPO1 Joselito Segara said the real cab driver, Leo Cascabel, told them he lent his vehicle to unknown for earnings of P1,000, driver's license and cellphone. **Jobb M. Jacinto**

METRO

www.metro.com.ph

COOL summer LIVING SALE

Mar. 23 - Apr. 22

0% INTEREST ON ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

Fire DTI HCSR Permit No. 2008, Series of 2012

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

New clue gives hope to solving Amelia Earhart mystery

EARHART

WASHINGTON—A new clue in one of the 20th century's most enduring mysteries could uncover the fate of American aviator Amelia Earhart, who went missing without a trace over the Pacific Pacific 75 years ago, investigators said on Tuesday.

Enhanced analysis of a photograph taken just months after Earhart's Lockheed Electra plane vanished shows what experts think may be the landing gear of the aircraft protruding from the waters off the remote island of Nikumaroro, in what is now the Pacific nation of Kiribati, they said.

Armed with that analysis by the State Department, historians, scientists and salvagers from The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, are returning to the island in July in the hope of finding further evidence of Earhart's plane and perhaps even the remains of the pilot and her navigator Fred Noonan.

Ric Gillespie, executive director of the group, acknowledged that the evidence was "circumstantial" but "strong" but cautioned there's no guarantees. The new search is scheduled to last for 10 days in July and will use state-of-the-art underwater robotic submersibles and mapping equipment.

"The most important thing is not whether we find the ultimate answer or what we find, it is the journey, itself," he said. "We see this opportunity to explore ... the last great American mystery of the 20th century as a vehicle for demonstrating how to go about figuring out what is true."

Earhart and Noonan disappeared July 2, 1937, while flying from New Guinea to Howland Island as part of her attempt to become the first female pilot to circumnavigate the globe.

Extensive searches at the time uncovered nothing and many historians are convinced they crashed into the ocean. In addition, conspiracy theories, including claims that the U.S. government agents captured by the Japanese before the World War II, still abound despite having been largely debunked.

Gillespie's group believes Earhart and Noonan may have managed to land on a reef after running the aircraft, then known as the Lockheed Model 10 Electra, out of fuel. They survived for a short time. They survive that the plane was washed off the reef by high tides shortly after the landing and that the wreckage may be found in the deep waters nearby.

Their previous visits to the island have uncovered artifacts that could have belonged to Earhart and Noonan and suggests they might have lived for days or weeks. Now, they have the new analysis of the Gardner 1937 photo of the shoreline of the island. Experts say a blurry object sticking out of the water in the lower left corner of the black-and-white photo is consistent with a strut and wheel of a Lockheed Electra landing gear. AP

Syria's crisis extremely dangerous–UN chief

BAN KI-MOON

AMMAN—UN chief Ban Ki-moon said on Wednesday that Syria's crisis was extremely dangerous and had "massive repercussions" for the world, as more fighting erupted, with two Damascus suburbs coming under heavy tank bombardment.

"We do not know how events will unfold. But we do know that we all have a responsibility to work for a resolution of this profound and extremely dangerous crisis," Ban said in a speech to the Indonesian capital, Jakarta.

The crisis has potentially massive repercussions for the region and the world, he said.

On Wednesday, two large Damascus suburbs came under tank bombardment following renewed fire fighting army attacks on forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad, opposition activists said.

Artillery and machineguns can be heard in the suburbs of Harasta and Irbin, residents from which by Assad's forces two months ago, and army helicopters were heard flying over the area on the eastern edge of the capital, the activists said.

Assad's forces overran rebel-held control over Damascus suburbs in January after days of tank and artillery shelling that beat back rebels and refused more protests against the 42-year rule of Assad and his father, the late President Hafez al-Assad.

The suburbs are a linked series of towns inhabited mostly by members of Syria's Sunni Muslim majority, groups increasingly resentful at the domination of the Assads, who belong to the minority Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shi'ite Islam.

The Damascus suburbs and rebel fighters' fight on Tuesday from the eastern city of Deir al-Zor marked the latest setbacks for the united opposition, which also faced accusations of rumors and brutality from attacking Iranian fighter body.

But as Assad made advances on the ground, he appeared to lose ground on the diplomatic front, with key ally Moscow adopting a new, sharper tone after months of publicly standing by his government.

"We believe the Syrian leadership reacted wrongly to the first appearances of peaceful protests and ... is making very many mistakes," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told Russian media station Kommersant FM.

"This, unfortunately, has in many ways led the conflict to reach such a severe stage."

Lavrov also spoke of a "future transition" period for Syria, but continued to reject calls from Western and Arab states for Assad to resign, saying this was "senseless."

It was not immediately clear if the change in tone would translate into a tangible difference in the way international powers, hitherto divided on Syria, might deal with the crisis. Reuters

POLICE officers work on the site of a bomb explosion near the Indonesian Embassy in Paris on Wednesday

Bomb explodes near Indonesian embassy

PARIS—A bomb exploded outside the Indonesian embassy in Paris early on Wednesday, causing serious damage to surrounding buildings but no injuries, police said.

The bomb exploded shortly before dawn at 5:45 a.m., when the streets of western Paris were relatively quiet, blowing out windows in a 50-meter radius and sending fire to metro cars.

Police chief Michel Gaudin visited the scene after the blast, accompanied by his chief of staff, who told reporters that a bag had been spotted under the embassy's windows by a worker cleaning them in the street.

"He looked inside the bag, opened it and thought it must be a bomb since he saw a container attached to wires. He dropped it, left the area and called the police. That's when it exploded," Jean-Louis Fiamenghi said.

"The man was hurt but there are people in shock in neighboring flats," Fiamenghi said the bomb could have contained "several kilos of explosives."

No group or individual immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Police and firefighters were rushed to the area and sealed off the road where the blast occurred. A bomb disposal team was also in place to make any remaining explosives safe.

In Jakarta, Teuku Faizasyah, Indonesian presidential spokesperson on foreign affairs, said the government there had been informed of an incident, adding: "We're still looking for clarity on whether or not were the target or not."

"At the end-2000s there was a case of a small bomb explosion at the Indonesian embassy in Paris. It turned out to be a hoax incident, and nothing to do with a national threat," he added. Coordinating Security Minister Djoko Suyanto told AFP: "This is being investigated by the Indonesian embassy in Paris with immediate ties with local authorities."

"The Indonesian ambassador in Paris reported that the explosion took place at one of the commercials near the embassy at 5.20 am. We don't know the origin of the bomb. The embassy and all the location but he can't go near."

"The windows were broken but there's no report yet of Indonesian or staff casualties. We are still waiting for developments," he added. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

US exempts 11 states from Iran sanctions

WASHINGTON—The United States exempted Japan and 10 European donor nations from financial sanctions because they have significantly cut purchases of Iranian crude oil, but left Iran's top customers China and India exposed to the possibility of such steps. The decision announced on Tuesday is a victory for the 11 countries, whose parties have been given a six-month reprieve from the threat of being cut off from the US financial system under new sanctions designed to pressure Iran over its nuclear program. The beneficiaries, however, include China and India, Iran's top two crude oil importers, not US allies South Korea and Turkey, which are among the top 10 consumers of Iranian oil. Reuters

Romney pads lead with Illinois win

SCHAUMBURG, Illinois—Mitt Romney easily won the Republican presidential primary in Illinois on Tuesday night, padding his already-formidable lead over chief rival Rick Santorum with another victory in a key industrial state. Romney, a multimillionaire who has the backing of most of the Republican establishment but struggles with the party's more conservative wing, is looking for the overall win for delegates to choose a candidate to challenge President Barack Obama in the November election. A less convincing win in Illinois would have triggered fresh anxiety within the party about his ability to win over its base. Santorum, a Catholic who is favored by religious conservatives, has almost no hope of overtaking Romney in the tally of delegates who will choose the nominee. AP

US probes fatal shooting of black teen

SANFORD—An unarmed black teenager shot to death by a neighborhood watch captain in Florida last month gathered in vain being followed recently before the confrontation that killed him, a lawyer said on Tuesday as federal prosecutors announced they would investigate. The case has sparked protests and drawn attention to the growing number of states that allow people to use deadly force if they feel threatened. George Zimmerman, 28, says he shot 17-year-old Trayvon Martin last month in self-defense during a confrontation in a Florida gated community. Police have described Zimmerman as white. Martin's family says he is Hispanic and not black. He has not been charged. AP

Bombs kill 52 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—More than 30 bombs struck cities and towns across Iraq on Tuesday, killing at least 52 people and wounding about 250, despite a massive security clampdown ahead of next week's Arab League summit in Baghdad. It was Iraq's bloodiest day in nearly a month, and the scale of the coordinated explosions in more than a dozen cities showed an apparent determination by insurgents to prove that the government cannot provide security safe ahead of the summit. Reuters

French police corner suspect in shootings

TOULOUSE—A lone gang on Wednesday as French police besieged a flat where an Islamist suspect in a series of deadly shootings was holed up, claiming he had vowed to avenge Palestinian children.

Two officers had already been wounded as shots rang out in the ongoing operation to arrest the suspect, thought to be a French national of North African origin who told officers that he was a member of the al-Qaeda network.

Armed officers investigating three recent attacks in which a scooter-riding killer gunned down seven people, including three Jewish children, sealed off an address in a residential district of the southern city of Toulouse.

Rumors of gunfire rang out periodically, AFP reporters at the scene said.

Interior Minister Claude Guéant said the suspect's family at had been detained, although he confirmed that only one suspect had been at the scenes of the three shooting attacks carried out since March 11.

The suspect had previously been arrested on a matters of common law in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, cradle of the Taliban, police said.

The victims of the attacks were three soldiers of North African origin, three Jewish children and a rabbi. AFP

Powerful quake stirs panic in Mexico

MEXICO CITY—A powerful 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck southwest Mexico on Tuesday, damaging hundreds of homes and sending panicked people into the streets of the capital, with no immediate reports of serious casualties.

The quake struck south of the Pacific resort of Acapulco, between the states of Guerrero and Oaxaca, and was followed by several aftershocks, the US Geological Survey said. Initially it had estimated the magnitude at 7.0.

Guerrero governor Angel Aguirre told state radio that some 1,680 houses in four municipalities of the coastal region known as the Costa Chica had been damaged.

He said that authorities were checking schools and public buildings around Cruzintepec, a town of 20,000 near the epicenter.

Many houses showed signs of damage in Cruzintepec while residents of the basic hospital were evacuated into a garden, including women in labor.

The White House said President Barack Obama's 33-year-old daughter Malia, who is on vacation in Mexico, was safe.

"In light of today's earthquake, we can confirm that Malia Obama is safe and was never in danger," said Kristina Schake, spokesperson for First Lady Michelle Obama.

In Mexico City, buildings swayed, telephone and power lines were cut off and traffic lights stopped working as office workers rushed into the streets.

Local media reported one person was injured when a pedestrian bridge collapsed on an empty bus in the north of the city.

It was one of the strongest quakes to shake the capital since 1985, when an 8.1-magnitude earthquake left between 6,000 and 30,000 dead, according to officials and rescue organizations respectively. AFP

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **BPI loan book growing** faster than projected /B2
■ **PSALM, SPC in talks over** crucial Naga facility /B3
■ **Residential property** sector seen facing oversupply woes /B4
■ **BSP, BAP work on new** loan benchmark /B8

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Budget deficit reached ₱16B in January

By Michelle V. Remo

Spending up, revenues slide, says DOF

THE GOVERNMENT incurred a budget deficit of nearly P16 billion in January—a reversal of last year's P13-billion surplus—on it hiked spending, releasing more funds to line agencies.

The Department of Finance yesterday reported that total government expenditures in January reached P142.93 billion, while total revenues amounted to P126.25 billion.

The deficit for the month stood at P15.9 billion.

The expenditures for the month represented a 16-percent rise from the P122.49 billion reported in the same period last year, the DOF said.

The government posted a deficit in the first month of the year after it reduced its net money for social investors and infrastructure, hoping to pump-prime the economy, officials said.

Last year, the lower-than-target public spending reportedly led to a slowdown in the growth of the economy.

However, the deficit in January was not only driven by the increase in public spending. A decline in revenue collections also contributed to the budget gap for the month.

Data from the DOF showed that total revenues for January marked a 7-percent drop from the P135.9 billion reported in the same month last year.

Officials claimed that the lower amount of collections has been being collected by various government agencies led to the the drop in revenues, which occurred despite the increase in the tax and import duty collections.

GMA'T B2

Gov't eyes local, not foreign, lenders

THE GOVERNMENT may tap the domestic capital market to raise a portion of the ₱750 million it originally planned to borrow offshore, as officials cited the high liquidity and low interest rates prevailing in the Philippines.

According to the original 2012 borrowing program set by the Department of Finance, the government was supposed to borrow ₱2.35 trillion from the foreign capital market this year to help fund its expenditure requirements, which include higher spending for social services and infrastructure.

The amount represents 25 percent of the government's supposed borrowing program for the year. The bulk of 75 percent was meant to be raised domestically.

GOV'T B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
March 21, 2012
43.040

STOCK MARKET
March 21, 2012
64.3

Shares trade lower on Wall Street concerns

THE LOCAL stock index yesterday extended losses for the third straight session on weak investor's lightened their positions after mixed US stocks declined overnight.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index lost 64.3 points, or 1.26 percent, to close at 5,027.34.

BW&ME B1

PH to host P9-B LNG terminal hub

By Arra B. Bacus

KEPPEL Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. of Hong Kong is investing some ₱210 million, or roughly P9 billion, to put up a liquefied natural gas terminal and regasification facility (LNG hub) in Batangas, which will reportedly be the first of its kind in Asia.

The proposed LNG hub was unveiled in Pagbilao, Quezon by local Quezon will be a significant milestone in the development of the Philippines' natural gas industry and will likewise "pave the way to provide clean and green energy to the archipelago," PNT said in a report.

On a larger scale, the construction of the facility on the island will spur the development of an Asian LNG spot market since Pagbilao is located along the international LNG trade routes.

For PNT, this will form an ultra-strategic step in the company's business plan to increase the supply and availability of LNG to fuel the single-user market.

According to the company, the LNG terminal will be built in two phases, the first of which will cover the construction of a 100,000-cubic meter LNG storage tank, regasification facility jetty and supporting infrastructure. Phase two will include the construction of an additional 120,000-cubic meter LNG storage tank.

The proposed terminal will be adjacent to the existing 735-Mw Ilijan Power Plant of Team Energy, which has a 220-kilometer underground in place, and abundant deep water berthing for ocean-going vessels.

Site work and construction of phase one of the LNG hub terminal have already commenced and commercial operation is planned for 2012-2013.

The company has expressed confidence in the project, considering that it has already "re-

PN B1

LEXUS MANILA SHOWROOM | 3402 8th Avenue Corner 34th Street, North Bonifacio Global City, Taguig 1634 | Tel. (632) 8565050

BPI loan book growing faster than projected

Profit may rise by at least 9%

By Doris C. Dumlao

MAKATI-bound bank of the Philippine Islands is expanding its loan book at a faster pace than projected on fair first year, building on core businesses while reviewing financial leasing before any senior pursuit of merger and acquisition opportunities.

In a dinner interview at the clubhouse of the Chamber of Thrift Banks' annual convention yesterday, BPI president Aurelio Montinola III said the first quarter had so far been "good" because loan levels were holding up. Loan growth in the first quarter was trending at 1.6 percent versus the banks' whole year target of 12-15 percent, the banker said.

As the banking industry typically generates more than 60 per cent of operating income from core revenue earnings from lending, loan growth is an indicator closely watched by bankers and banking analysts.

Based on market consensus estimates, BPI will grow its net profit this year by at least 9 percent over last year's record of P12.8 billion.

On the equity market speculation that it is on the prowl for a new M&A opportunity, Montinola said BPI would like to "survey first" its first quarter results ahead of the bank's annual stockholders meeting in April.

As to whether BPI was planning to beef up its tier 1 capital ahead of tighter capital adequacy ratio (CAR) regulations under Basel 3, Montinola said those things were always "under review" but suggested that the bank's CAR was still comfortable in current levels.

BPI's CAR levels assets current, it ranges from 14 to 15 percent, about 13 percentage of which constitutes core or tier 1 capital.

Montinola said the bank aimed to keep a high level of CAR and return on equity (ROE). He said BPI would like to maintain its ROE at 15 percent.

"But we also know that the Basel 3 will move in, so we're moving our numbers. We're projecting 13 percent (loan) growth for the next few years," Montinola said. "It (CAR) will bother ROE."

Universal and commercial banks are required to adopt by Jan. 1, 2014 the capital adequacy standards under Basel 3, which introduces a complex package of reforms designed to improve the ability of both capital to absorb losses, extend the coverage of financial risks and have stronger firewalls against periods of stress.

IPVG increasing budget for acquisition plan

By Paolo G. Montecillo

DIVERSIFYING technology firm IPVG Corp. is increasing the price it plans to pay to acquire 100 percent of a company that operates in plans to operate mineral refineries in China and India, two of the world's leading emerging markets.

Earlier this year, IPVG, which owns off-for technology related assets to an affiliate last year, said it would spend P2.8 billion for New Wave Resources, which has a strategic relationship with a leading designer, builder and operator of refineries in China.

But in a board meeting this week, IPVG said its board agreed to pay a higher price, given the company's brighter expansion prospects.

"The board met to approve the increase in the (planned) investment for the New Wave Resources acquisition due to the additional currency (India) in which New Wave will be establishing and operating a refinery," IPVG said in a disclosure.

The acquisition will be made through IPVG affiliate Compact Space Ltd. The companies told the bourse "assume that this transaction would be put up to a vote during a special stockholders meeting on April 15."

"The refinery is expected to produce an economic value-add for the Philippine economy in on for on materials and services are concerned," IPVG said in a previous disclosure.

To pay for the purchase, IPVG said it would issue 2.8 billion new shares at P1 each—to be subscribed to by a still unnamed Chinese-Canadian firm.

This will boost IPVG's capital base to about 2.8 billion shares.

At the same board meeting, IPVG said it had approved the issuance of 21.5 million new shares at P1.16 each to affiliate GEM Global Yield Fund Ltd. at P1.16 per share. This was lower than IPVG's Wednesday closing price of P1.30 a share, down 2.25 percent from the day before.

IPVG earlier spun off to spot-using units, all engaged in technology-related businesses, in a bid to attract new investors to position the company for new investments.

These units include IP Converge Data Center Corp. and IP E-Games Ventures Inc., which are now owned by privately-held IP Ventures Inc.

Indicative price for GT Capital's IPO set

TYCOON George Ty's GT Capital Holdings Inc. has set an indicative price for its common shares at between P435 and P450 per share for an initial public offering (IPO) of up to P10.3 billion.

The selling price has been announced from the earlier indicative maximum price of P520 per share, said Justine Jean Ocampo, senior vice president of First Metro Investment Corp., lead investment briefing on Wednesday. FMIC serves as the domestic arranger for the offering.

The stock offering will consist of up to 41,037 million firm shares and an over-allotment option of 6.16 million shares.

GT Capital has interests in banking (Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.), real estate (Federal Land Inc.), automotive (Toyota Motor Philippines), insurance (Phil AXA Life Insurance Corp.) and power generation (Global Business Power).

The final pricing of GT Capital's offering will be set on April 5 while the offering will run from April 11 to 16. The shares will be listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange on April 26. (Jarvis C. Baroña)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

PSALM, SPC in talks over crucial Naga facility

By Amy R. Remo

STATE-RUN Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. is negotiating a six-month extension with SPC Power Corp. for the continued operation of the 140-megawatt Naga power plant complex in Cebu.

In a statement, PSALM stressed the need to have in place a temporary Operation and Maintenance Service Contract (OMSC) to ensure the continued supply of power from the Naga facility to the Visayas grid.

"Entering into an operation and maintenance service contract with SPC will allow stressed downtime of the Naga power plant's operations as SPC is currently operating the complex pursuant to its outstanding contract with the National Power Corp. (Napocor)," said PSALM president and chief executive officer Emmanuel R. Ledesma Jr.

SPC is the current operator of the Naga facility. However, the Bohol Island Operator-Maintenance and Manage Agreement between Napocor and SPC is set to expire on March 25.

To head off potential disruptions, PSALM earlier sought the services of another operator for the Naga complex. But the first auction was declared a failure by the PSALM bids and awards committee when no bid was received last Feb. 27. PSALM is set to conduct a second round of bidding for a one-year OMSC.

Meanwhile, Ledesma stressed that the negotiated procurement with SPC Power does not preclude PSALM from pursuing the privatization of the Naga power plant complex.

PSALM was supposed to auction off the independent power producer administrator contract covering the Naga power complex in October 2011.

But the agency gave way to the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC) when it requested PSALM to defer the bidding pending review of the "right to top the highest bid" granted to SPC Power Corp. in 2009.

From the Isekane of Batanes to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-Tawi

Uniting the Filipino People

JRS EXPRESS

www.jrs-express.com

YOUR PARTNER IN TIME

MYOB Business Basics & ACCT Aspire One

CALL US NOW!

MAIN OFFICE: 636-0000 (7333)
QUEZON CITY: (02) 921-1001 | 921-3000
ALABANG: (02) 846-4318 | 822-4333

MUSTARD Seed

Budget deficit

From page B1

here by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs.

Data also showed that revenues remitted to the Bureau of the Treasury, including administrative fees and dividends, amounted to P111.05 billion in January, down year-on-year by 64 percent from P310.98 billion.

Meantime, the BIR reported that its revenue actually grew because of its pursuit of tax evasion and the enforcement of efficiency in tax collection.

The BIR earned core P85.11 billion in state coffers—up 14 percent from P74.57 billion.

The BOC collected P21.39 billion, rising by 7 percent from P20.04 billion.

Last year, the Philippine economy grew by 6.7 percent.

Although analysts described the growth rate as respectable, it was still a sharp deceleration from the 7.6 percent registered in 2010.

Gov't eyes

From page B1

Nonetheless, foreign interest seen to the country and the domestic capital market's huge resources currently have prompted finance officials to consider reducing the share of domestic borrowings in relation to foreign loans.

A Department of Finance official said that the agency is currently studying the possibility of tweaking the original borrowing program, as it mulls over the 2012 borrowing plan, she said, the DOF may redraw the timetable for securing the $750 million in the second half of the year.

"The $750 million [borrowing] may be pursued in the second half. We [DOF] are still studying the options," Finance Undersecretary Rosalia De Leon said.

The banking sector's total resources amounted to P7.61 trillion by the end of 2011—up 6.3 percent from the P7.23 trillion seen the previous year. Michelle V. Remo

Shares trade lower

From page B1

Investors rush their cue from the jittery trading on Wall Street as global mining giant BHP Billiton reported that the iron ore demand from China—the world's top metals consumer—had "flattened," weighing down on US commodities and energy stocks.

"The market continued to decline on the combined effects of continued profit-taking as well as concerns that China's economic growth has started to slow down," said Stanley Lidasan, deputy chief of PNB Securities.

Most counters ended in the red, especially the Financial, Holding Firm and services counters, which fell by 1 percent, 1.37 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively. Only the mining-oil counter bucked the downturn.

There were 73 advancers against 102 decliners, while 61 stocks were unchanged. Value turnover amounted to P6.79 billion.

Inventory said down index stocks (SLI, ICTM, AB Mauri, Bank, AEI, ALI, BLC, BMC, BMPI, GMC, Meralco, FDC, 4C and UBC.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average dipped by 68.94 points, or 0.52 percent, to finish at 13,175.39 due to the development in China. Doris C. Dumlao

PH to host

From page B1

raised very strong interest from financiers and industrialists in the Philippines to invest and develop the 1,200 Oak Terminal."

Inside Oasis the terminal, IPPC is also building to put up to 500 megawatt combined cycle gas turbine power plant to serve as an anchor buyer of LNG.

The power plant will be designed to accommodate the latest high efficiency and environment friendly technology available for gas turbines, thus enabling the Philippines to be a leader in this field, the company explained.

"It will be one of the most efficient power producing plants in South Asia which, when combined with the fuel gas from the hub terminal, will allow highly competitive priced power to be generated and sold from the plant," IPPC added.

BECAUSE REAL ENTREPRENEURS NEED REAL SOLUTIONS.

Avail of our customized bundles and find out how success is made easy.

VOICE SOLUTIONS

BROADBAND SOLUTIONS

PRODUCTIVITY SOLUTIONS

BE A SUCCESSFUL BOSSING. ASK ABOUT PLDT SME NATION SOLUTIONS NOW.

Residential property se

Globe compartment

Beer giants unite to single tax scheme

EASIER CAL

Here is the Latest in Business Coll-aboration.

ALPHA

ctor seen facing oversupply woes

World Bank says PH real estate market stable

Stolen credit card data from Asia fetch higher prices, says study

Thrift banks urged to lend more to small businesses

PLDT
SIP

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE NCR Building, 827 Intramuros St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
HYBSUNG CORPORATION 3/F Dowd Z Bldg., 5011 Quezon Ave., Quezon City	Byung Mun Lee Korean	General Manager
HYBSUNG CORPORATION 3/F Dowd Z Bldg., 5011 Quezon Ave., Quezon City	Sungyoung Jung Korean	Administrative Manager
ASIA SELTET, INC. 6/F The Athenaeum Bldg. 160 Lunetta St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Yoanis Acosta Medina French	Division Architect - Transport
JG ZHON TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC. 16/F Tower 1 HCBC Plaza 8813 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wei Bang Pan Taiwanese	Customer Service Representative
PHILIPPINE SEA BPO SERVICES, INC. 6/F Yuchengco Tower I HCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Lu Minh Hoang Vietnamese	Data Analyst Officer
ILG GROUP PHILIPPINES, INC. 8/F Tower 2 The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	William Chan Malaysian	Asian Regional Operations Manager
ILG GROUP PHILIPPINES, INC. 8/F Tower 2 The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Jin Hoong Tan Malaysian	Asian Regional Operations Manager
TOTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CORPORATION 7/F MGO Bangio Damella Highway, Makati City	Sukhi Kaabia Indian	System Analyst
TOTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CORPORATION 7/F MGO Bangio Damella Highway, Makati City	Virendra Vilas Mahurkar Indian	Project Manager
TOTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CORPORATION 7/F MGO Bangio Damella Highway, Makati City	Abhishek Sharma Indian	Senior Associate Consultant
MYVALU TECH INC. Unit 1904 Richville Corporate Tower 1107 Alabang, Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City	Youngsoo Park Korean	Technical Consultant
MYVALU TECH INC. Unit 1904 Richville Corporate Tower 1107 Alabang, Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City	Seunghwan Ko Korean	Technical Support
MYVALU TECH INC. Unit 1904 Richville Corporate Tower 1107 Alabang, Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City	Yunsoop Shin Korean	General Manager
MYVALU TECH INC. Unit 1904 Richville Corporate Tower 1107 Alabang, Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City	Byungjun Lee Korean	Technical Support
MYVALU TECH INC. Unit 1904 Richville Corporate Tower 1107 Alabang, Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City	Donghu Lee Korean	Technical Support
MAKATI SHANGRILA HOTEL & RESORT, INC. Corner of Ayala and Makati Avenues, Makati City	Golden Manuel Whitehead South African	Executive Assistant Manager - Food and Beverage
KSB LTD. 6/F Ramon Magsaysay Center House Blvd., Malate, Manila	Chingchai Sumrong Thai	Technical Support Director Manager
ADSUBPAY PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Unit 307, SP Cloverleaf Condo Commonwealth, 1100 Quezon Blvd., Pasig City	Miriam Paulino Poulin Mauritian	General Technical Advisor
GOLD DELUXE PHILS. LTD. CO., INC. 8/F 2nd C Bonini Plaza, Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Chi Hong Lam Chinese	Consultant
NORTHERN FOUR FRIENDS TRADING CORP. 6th 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City	Jitender Pal Singh Indian	Purchasing Officer
GURPAR LENDING INC. G-21 L-3 Greenmont Hyatt Village, Taguig City	Harjit Kaur Sidhu Indian	Consultant
HSBC ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING (PHILIPPINES) INC. 27/30 North Bridgeway cor. Northgate Ave., Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Russell Kenneth Orr British	Head of Crime Product Business
SYKES ASIA, INC. 28/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Dorothy Soriano Shibe Japanese	Director of Operations
CONVERGYS PHILIPPINES SERVICES CORP. 8/F Convergys One Bldg., 5764 Ayala Ave., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Mark Robert Brolin British	Director - Program Management
S.A.A. VENTURES, INC. 110 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Itoh Mitsuoka Japanese	Consultant
S.A.A. VENTURES, INC. 110 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Ryuichiro Mura Japanese	Consultant
HASCONSTRAK ASIA CONSTRUCTION CORP. Holdings (Hyatt No. 1) Condotel, Benavidez Blvd., Pasay City	Wei Dai Chinese	Manager
DIGNOS DEVELOPMENT, INC. Holdings (Hyatt No. 1) Condotel, Benavidez Blvd., Pasay City	Tao Ni Chinese	Engineer
HSPH NET SOLUTIONS, INC. Unit 12-B Hi-Yield Bldg., Bonifacio, San Juan City	Takahiro Eguchi Japanese	Information Tech
TONY AND JACKEY BEAUTY SALON CORP. 2/F 2016 Bldg., 847 J. Vargas St., Brgy. 697 Zone 076 Binondo, Manila	Kanjeong Ko Korean	Hair Stylist
TONY AND JACKEY BEAUTY SALON CORP. 2/F 2016 Bldg., 847 J. Vargas St., Brgy. 697 Zone 076 Binondo, Manila	Jungil Kim Korean	Hair Stylist
TONY AND JACKEY BEAUTY SALON CORP. 2/F 2016 Bldg., 847 J. Vargas St., Brgy. 697 Zone 076 Binondo, Manila	Hoonglchan Korean	Hair Stylist
INTERVALUE SERVICES INC. 23/F Tower I HCBC Plaza, 8819 Ayala Ave., Bel-Air, Makati City	Shu-Hao Sun Taiwanese	Customer Service
INTERVALUE SERVICES INC. 23/F Tower I HCBC Plaza, 8819 Ayala Ave., Bel-Air, Makati City	Yu Ting Hung Taiwanese	Customer Service
INTERVALUE SERVICES INC. 23/F Tower I HCBC Plaza, 8819 Ayala Ave., Bel-Air, Makati City	Shih Yu Huang Taiwanese	Customer Service
INTERVALUE SERVICES INC. 23/F Tower I HCBC Plaza, 8819 Ayala Ave., Bel-Air, Makati City	Yi-Hsun Lu Taiwanese	Customer Service
INTERVALUE SERVICES INC. 23/F Tower I HCBC Plaza, 8819 Ayala Ave., Bel-Air, Makati City	Hsiu-An Huang Taiwanese	Customer Service
DIGNOS DEVELOPMENT, INC. Holdings (Hyatt No. 1) Condotel, Benavidez Blvd., Pasay City	Fu Yong Chinese	Design Mgr.
HASCONSTRAK ASIA CONSTRUCTION CORP. Holdings (Hyatt No. 1) Condotel, Benavidez Blvd., Pasay City	Yunbao Lin Chinese	General Manager
PHILTEC TECH CORP. Bls. 10 Lot 8, SF Monterville Mahayag 3, Las Piñas City	Sangyeon Jeon Korean	Sales Representative
BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. 11/F Upper McKinley Road, McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	Angela Maria McDonald British	Events Manager
BF YES-ON TRAVEL AND TOURS CORP. 2/F Everglades Commercial Bldg., 6025 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City	Se Hwa Jung Korean	Marketing Officer
BF YES-ON TRAVEL AND TOURS CORP. 2/F Everglades Commercial Bldg., 6025 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City	Sunbin Park Korean	Travel Consultant
DMT LOGISTICS PHILS., INC. Unit 7 Vision Expo Comp. Metro Ave., East Bicutan, Parañaque City	Sang Hyun Baek Korean	Business Development Officer
BF YES-ON TRAVEL AND TOURS CORP. 2/F Everglades Commercial Bldg., 6025 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City	Seunghwan Ki Korean	Travel & Tour Associate
INTERVIP BPO SOLUTIONS INC. 6772A Cubacub Central, 6034 cor. Guanzon Ave., Guanzon City	Yi Gao Chinese	Support Services Representative - Mandarin
DMT LOGISTICS PHILS. INC. Unit 7 Vision Expo Comp. Metro Ave., Bicutan, Parañaque City	Kwang Seok Kim Korean	Sales Manager
ARMCO INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC. 4/F Bldg. 1, Don Eduardo Compound, Ortigas Ave. cor. E.Rod., Quezon City	John Philip Wheatley British	VP Operations, APMEA

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN S. MACHES
Regional Director

ERRATUM

In the ad material of Notice of Filing of Application for Alien Employment Permit published on March 15, 2012, the position of **Mr. Michael Carl Veale** of **UNITED ENGINEERS** should have been stated as **Chief Operating Officer** and not as scientist.

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA STATE UNIVERSITY
Quezon City, Manila
Tel. Fax No. (+63) 929-0-11

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Manila State University, Quezon City, Manila, through the Supplemental Budget and Student Fund Collection Fund 2011 intends to apply the amount of P15,001,000.00 (FIFTEEN MILLION ONE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY) being the approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the supply and delivery of Desk and Arm Chair/ Desk School Box. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Manila State University, Quezon City, Manila, now invites bids for the items listed below. Delivery Time should be completed within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of submission and receipt of bids, as provided under to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instruction to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and adopted in Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Manila State University, Quezon City, Manila, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during regular office hours.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting March 01, 2012, from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).
6. The Manila State University, Quezon City, reserves the right to reject any bid or all bids, as the case may be, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
7. For further information, please refer to:

   Ms. Nelia M. Caballero
   Head Secretariat
   Manila State University
   Quezon City, Manila
   Tel. Fax No. (+63) 929-0-11

   Date: NOEMI C. SALANGA
   BAC Chairperson

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

ARCHITECTS

LOST BANAT

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

BLACK HOUSE FOR SALE!
San Roque, Santiago Norte Sur
Lot Area: 3,000
Floor Area: 300
Email: nilsdelm@yahoo.com
Tel. 8116287 and Not Long

CONDO/TOWNSHIP

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

LOT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

HOUSE

LOAN & MORTGAGE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to notify the public that **ARIVA HOSPITALITY PHILIPPINES, INC.** will be closed and will terminate its registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Any legal notices could be served at this address: 2nd Floor, Planters Products Building, 109 Esteban Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TOWNSHIP FOR SALE/RENT

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ROLEX LOUIS VUITTON

need a job? Read JOB every Sunday

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

More Classifieds on pages...

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	A20
Bohol I Electric Cooperative, Inc.	A20
Bulacan Marcelo Memorial Hospital and Medical Center	B8
Province of Lanao del Norte	B9

OBRA 2011 Winners Show the Right Way for OFWs and Bulikbayan

THE 3RD Outstanding OFW and Bulikbayan Reputation Awards (OBRA) Awardees for 2011 received plaques from the attendees last December 14, 2011 at SM Megamall.

The 2011 awardees are Ms. Rochelle M. Villaluz and Ms. Bandolina L. Sale for Outstanding Community Builder, Mr. Randy Ahorro and Ms. Myrna T. Padilla for Outstanding Entrepreneur, Ms. Rogelio Sao Andrew and Mr. Prudencio G. Garcia for Outstanding Positive Character/Good Deed, and Mr. Carlito L. Bulilan for Outstanding Family Builder.

The event was attended by Undersecretary Mary Grace Tinaza of the Commission of Filipino Overseas (CFO). She was joined by Mr. Victor Fernandez, president, Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc. (PASEI), Ms. Marissa del Mar Anchor, Bahay OFW. "OBRA aims to show to the OFWs and Bulikbayans that they can live the right way and be successful. Most importantly, that there are people like them that has successfully accomplished the feat", said Mitch Bulilan-ora, CEO of Bulakbayans.

OBRA is supported by Pinoycard, Bahay OFW, Alumni Pinoy, PASEI, OFW Advocates and Businessworld.

OBRA is organized and produced by Bulakbayans as an annual advocacy event for OFWs and Bulikbayan. For partnerships and more details call telnos. 843.3887

need a job?
Read
JOB
Market
every Saturday

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region X
Division of Bukidnon
Malitbog, Bukidnon
Telephone Nos. (088) 813-2061; 813-2062; 813-2447; 813-2448; Fax Nos. (088) 813-2684; 813-2685

DepEd

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Bukidnon through its Bids & Awards Committee, now inviting bids for the above-mentioned works. Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected at the opening. Bidders may bid for one or all models. Materials shall be supplied. Evaluation and award shall be on a per (lump sum).

Only competitive bidding will be conducted using the non-discretionary pass/fail criteria and procedures specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 9184.

ACTIVITY	DATE & TIME	VENUE
Issuance of the Bidding Documents	March 22, 2012 - April 10, 2012	Cashier, Division of Bukidnon Malitbog, Bukidnon
Pre-Bid Conference	March 29, 2012, 9:00 AM	DepEd, Division of Bukidnon Malitbog, Bukidnon
Deadline for Submission of Bids / Opening of Bids	April 10, 2012, 8:30 AM April 10, 2012, 9:00 AM	DepEd, Division of Bukidnon Malitbog, Bukidnon

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00). Monthly Bid Conference at which the prospective bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

The Department of Education, Division of Bukidnon reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Marino S. Bagtas, Ed. D., CESO
Schools Division Superintendent

Department of Education
Division of Bukidnon
Malitbog, Bukidnon
(088) 813-2061; 813-2062; 813-2447; 813-2448

Approved by:
Dpt. OIC-ASDS & SGOD, Ed.D., CESO
Schools Division Superintendent

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar corner J. Nicanor Reyes Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000 local 2247 to 2249 / Connecting at all such trunks

INVITATION TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified contractors to submit their bids/proposals for the following projects:

Class	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Non-Refundable Fee	Delivery Period
ON ALL SITES (Lots)			
Supply, Delivery and Installation of Vertical Office Furniture, Distinct Cages, Telecom Cages, Counter Top Shelving, Counter Top and Mobile Pedestal, Chairs and Stools			Within thirty (30) calendar days per Notice/s after receipt of Notice/s of Award
Marble Works, Minor Carpentry and Masonry Works			
Lot I - Central Branch	Php 900,000.00	Php 1,000.00	
Lot II - Ayala Legal Branch	710,000.00	1,000.00	
Lot III - Buendia Branch	241,000.00	1,000.00	
Lot IV - Makati Branch	480,000.00	1,000.00	
Lot V - Pasay Branch	460,000.00	1,000.00	
TOTAL	Php 2,900,000.00		

Prospective bidders should have established a track record in the supply of the projects for the past five (5) years, proof of which must be submitted during the pre-bid conference. Failure to submit any of the requirements under the Eligibility Documents shall result in the disqualification of the bidder from the bidding process.

All participating bidders must pass the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Evaluation and Award, Contract Signing governed by the guidelines contained in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	March 22 to April 10, 2012 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily
2. Pre-bid Conference	March 29, 2012, 10:00 AM Meeting Room, 5th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quirino Streets, Malate, Manila
3. Submission / Opening of Bids	April 10, 2012, 10:00 AM Procurement Department, 5th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quirino Streets, Malate, Manila
4. Bid Evaluation	April 10, 2012
5. Post-Qualification	April 10 to 16, 2012
6. Notice of Award	April 17, 2012

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon submittal of the applicable non-refundable amount to the LBP Cashier.

The LANDBANK reserves its respective rights to accept/reject or cancel any/all bid(s) for any project(s) without prejudice to the LBP.

BAC-Sec. 19 (2012)

BDO

Asset Management

Drive your way to the BDO Fantastic Auto Sale

Enjoy as much as 20% off on specially reduced vehicles

BDO Car Depot is open from Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Visit www.bdo.com.ph and access Properties for Sale for the list of cars available for sale.

Promo ends April 21, 2012.

We find ways

For more details, call us at Tel. No. 632 750-7000 / 752-7000 or E-mail: chattelsales@bdo.com.ph

Invitation to Bid

Loan Agreement No. 2249-PH
Project ID: [illegible]

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the World Bank toward the cost of Calamba Bypass and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for Calamba Project in the [illegible] Region. The following projects:

REFERENCE NO.	LOCATION	DURATION	ESTIMATED AMOUNT (PHP)
[illegible]	Municipality of Kauswagan, Misamis Oriental	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,100,000.00
[illegible]	City of Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,000,000.00
[illegible]	Municipality of Opol, Misamis Oriental	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,000,000.00
[illegible]	Municipality of Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,000,000.00
[illegible]	Municipality of Villanueva, Misamis Oriental	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,000,000.00
[illegible]	Municipality of Initao, Misamis Oriental	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,000,000.00
[illegible]	Municipality of Manticao, Misamis Oriental	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,000,000.00
[illegible]	Municipality of Lugait, Misamis Oriental	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,000,000.00
[illegible]	Municipality of Alubijid, Misamis Oriental	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,000,000.00
[illegible]	City of Iligan, Lanao del Norte	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,000,000.00
[illegible]	Municipality of Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,000,000.00
[illegible]	City of Iligan, Lanao del Norte	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,000,000.00
[illegible]	Municipality of Linamon, Lanao del Norte	Three (3) months from Notice to Proceed to End of Validity 2012	3,000,000.00
		TOTAL	48,000,000.00

2. The Government of the Philippines now invites Philippine Contractors to submit bids for the above projects.

3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with national procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the IRR of R.A. 9184, with some amendments, as stated in these bidding documents, open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the applicable provisions/guidelines of the WORLD BANK. Bidders should refer to Appendix 1 to Section I of the Instructions to Bidders (ITB) for more information on such eligible source countries.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Loan Implementation Section, DENR Region 7, Regional Office and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily.

5. A complete set of Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting March 22, 2012 to April 20, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of PHP [illegible] (Philippine Peso [illegible]). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the Department's website provided that bidders shall pay in full for the amount of the bid not later than the submission of their bids.

6. The DENR 7 Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on all eligible bidders on April 3, 2012 at 2:00 PM, DENR Conference Room, DENR Regional Office No. 7, Mandaue, Cebu. This event shall be open to all interested parties.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before April 20, 2012 at 10:00 AM. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form and amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened at 2:00 PM on the same date in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Region 7 (CO) reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

9. For further information, please refer to:

[illegible]
BAC-Chairman

Philippine Mercury Association (PMA) President, Renato S. Dychangco, Jr. leads the tree planting activity at the Botanical Garden yesterday. The PMA holds its 7th National Convention at Baguio City, March 20 to 23, 2012.

looking for a job?
email resume to
workingpeople@inquirer.com.ph
or
log on to jobmarketonline.com.ph

hire now www.jobmarketonline.com

BUSINESS

Millions of Filipinos get ready to participate in Earth Hour campaign

By Aya R. Reano

LIGHTS WILL not be put out again on the evening of March 31 this year, as millions of Filipinos are expected to participate in the Earth Hour campaign, a self-imposed 60-minute blackout now deemed to be the largest call for action on climate change.

Now on its fifth year, Earth Hour Philippines national director Gia Brey said in a briefing yesterday that the group expects the Philippines to again lead the world in the switch-off ceremonies, and surpass previous records in terms of participation and energy savings. The Philippines is a three-time Earth Hour champion and an official Earth Hour Mega Country.

According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Philippines became the top Earth Hour country by clocking in 2009, in terms of votes cast for participation, at 647 Philippine towns and cities joined. Ten million Filipinos saved at least 611 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity in 2009, equivalent to a temporary shutdown of a dozen coal-fired power plants.

In 2010, 1,076 Philippine towns and cities participated, more than enough to retain the title, while last year, a record-breaking 1,161 Philippine cities and municipalities switched off their lights for Earth Hour in 2011, generating savings of about 500 megawatts.

"We're extremely excited for this year's switch-off ceremonies. Though the Visayas and Mindanao have always observed their own unique switch-off ceremonies, WWF has traditionally celebrated Earth Hour from Manila. To commemorate our country's fifth Earth Hour, we thought it high time for WWF to observe the movement across the archipelago," Brey said.

The switch-off ceremonies will be held in Makati, Cebu and Davao.

"More than symbolizing Earth's Hour in celebration of Earth, when our planet plunges into darkness, we can look to the stars and dream of what can be. When the lights switch back on though, our real work begins," Brey added.

BSP, BAP work on new loan benchmark

By Michelle V. Rosca and Doris C. Dumlao

THE MANDARIN financial rig Philippine and the Bankers Association of the Philippines are in talks to come up with an alternative loan pricing benchmark on grounds that Treasury bill rates have become too low and thus inappropriate for guiding lending rates.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said banks have submitted proposed alternative benchmarks to the central bank and that the regulator is also studying its own models.

"I think we're not no longer appropriate as benchmarks. There are certain proposals on how to address the matter, and the BSP is looking at those right now," Tetangco told reporters yesterday.

Private banks claimed that T-bill rates are so low that they are no longer appropriate as a guide for setting lending rates, which have to take into account costs associated with operating a lending business.

The latest T-bills rates are still below 1 percent and lower than the current inflation rate, which averaged at 3.3 percent as of the first two months of the year.

In the latest government securities auction, the T-bill rates stood at 2.305 percent for the three-month securities; 2.45 percent for the six-month; and 2.808 percent for the one-year bill.

Tetangco said an alternative benchmark is needed to borrow public funds in setting interest rates on loans to individual and corporate borrowers.

BAP president Aurelio Montilla III, in a separate interview yesterday on the sidelines of the Chamber of Thrift Banks' national convention, confirmed there was a discussion on proposed loan benchmarks.

"We've already submitted our positions. There will be continuing discussions," Montilla said.

One of the proposed loan benchmarks is the BSP's overnight rate, currently pegged at 4 percent a year.

Regulators and industry representatives declined to disclose the finer details of the proposals, but Tetangco said the BSP will make a formal announcement of what will be agreed upon after discussions are completed.

The fall of T-bill rates to below 3 percent is mainly attributed to the huge liquidity in the capital market that has been pushing demand for government securities.

As the market enjoys substantial gains, demand for investments in government securities actually rises, thereby bringing down interest rates.

Market players also said the improving fiscal position of the national government helps boost demand for risk-free government securities.

INVITATION TO APPLY TO BID

PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE

OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Gov't rules seen hindering cloud computing growth

By Paolo O. Montecillo

HONG KONG—Stiff government regulations remain among the hurdles preventing the more widespread adoption in Asia of "cloud computing" solutions that, most corporations agree, can lead to massive savings and increased productivity in any organization.

A recent study by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) showed that while some policymakers openly promote advances in technology, there are the same governments that enact laws that limit the adoption of innovations.

"There is definitely some conflict there," PWC partner and Asia Pacific Technology Industry Practice leader Greg Unsworth said.

In a briefing here, Unsworth cited examples like Singapore, where a government ministry exists solely to promote the use of new technologies, especially in providing vital public services.

"But in different parts of the Internet we see regulatory bodies are putting in place rules and standards that slow down the adoption of cloud computing," Unsworth said.

These regulations include stricter protection of personal data of bank clients or transaction records in telecommunications firms. Most countries, he said, still require this kind of information to be stored "on-shore" or within the borders of a country or computer operations.

This goes against the concept of cloud computing, which, among other uses, allows companies to remotely outsource their storage and computing requirements to servers and computer hosted in several parts of the world.

Unsworth was speaking at the launch of the Cloud Computing Alliance, a multilateral partnership led by Globe-backed tech firm Innocu Corp. together with some of Asia's leading telecommunications and information technology service providers.

Among the alliance's main goals is to find solutions to outdated and inconsistent government policies and other adoption barriers to cloud computing.

Other concerns for corporations considering the migration to the cloud are security, performance reliability, and the compatibility of cloud solutions with existing systems.

Alliance members, including Hong Kong's MacEwan Global Communications, YAPS (Seven Malaysia) and LG CNS (South Korea), seek to craft a set of standards that other cloud computing service providers can follow to make it easier for customers to shift and replace their current legacy systems.

IAAPA
Enchanted Kingdom
PhilAAPA

The IAAPA Safety Institute
for Amusement Parks and Attractions
March 27, 2012, Tuesday, 7:30am to 6:00pm
Enchanting Events Place, Enchanted Kingdom,
Sta. Rosa City, Laguna

Learn from leading experts as they share their best practices.

- **Randy Davis,** Senior Vice President, Safety and Advocacy, International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA), USA. Topic: An Overview of Standards on Safety
- **Darren Lim,** Deputy Director, Amusement Rides Safety Building and Construction Authority, Singapore Topic: Adopting Safety Standards
- **Noble Coker,** Vice President, Park Operations Hong Kong Disneyland Resort Topic: Safety Operations - Disney's Approach
- **Doug Stagner,** Corporate Senior Director of Operations, Sea World Parks & Entertainment, Florida, USA Topic: Safety Maintenance and Best Practices
- **Richard A. Carroll,** Senior Vice President and COO, Jeff Ellis & Associates, Inc., USA Topic: Waterpark Safety Operations
- **Frankie Hau,** Environmental Health and Safety Manager, Ocean Park, Hong Kong Topic: Safety Inspections
- **Ramon Santos,** President, Western International, Philippine Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (PhilAAPA) Topic: Challenges in Safety

Sponsored by

Register Now!
Email: philaapa_safety@yahoogroups.com
Fax No.: (02) 564.4332 Tel. No.: 564.3535 loc. 106

INVITATION TO BID

Glencore resumes operation

GLENCORE (area) restored will resume operations at the only copper refinery in the Philippines by June or July, six months after a fire halted its operations, a company official told Reuters on Thursday.

Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. (Pasar), majority owned by Glencore, shut in January after a fire at its oil tank farm in Leyte province, destroying one collection division.

"Our people are now doing a refurbishing for plant because we want it to be in top shape when we operate by middle of this year, to June or July," said J. Paul Tiu, Pasar senior vice president for industrial and community relations.

The could set glee on ordinary as lost revenue from the fall in copper processing and exports, setting each it was likely to be "significant."

The company earned $1.4 billion in 2010 from copper exports. Reuters

LIFESTYLE Food

How to have a lucky kitchen

Cooking appliances should never face the faucet–this and other feng shui tips

I HAVEN'T stopped laughing since I met geomancer and feng shui master Akiko Dalangkayan.

If you get past his roaring laughter and white silk shirt, you will find a good-humor who explains the secrets behind the successful businesses that flow through the science of feng shui.

Many restaurant BOIs have been attributed to Dalangkayan's mastery of kitchen feng shui, an innovative approach to the traditional art of Chinese geomancy.

It is regarded as the cultivation of energy and defines the balance-generating and storage capacity of a home or a business. The remaining 50 percent is divided between the main doors and the owner's

MORE PAGE 2

Sea-urchin shooters, pan-seared foie gras–'inauthentic' Japanese food, but I love it

Mogu's fare is fun and brash and playful and is about being delicious, rather than correct

By Clarissa Palanca
Contributor

I THINK the kind of ownership drive discovery that doesn't happen very much these days anymore. We were wandering around The Fort on a Friday night, our pockets flush with month's end wages, looking for somewhere to eat.

We didn't expect to get tables in the hip and trendy new restaurants. We just wanted something good, even familiar, to evoke us or the end of a hard week.

As we meandered more to forward, a strange appeared in the form of Mogu. It seemed that a Japanese restaurant had materialized where one hadn't been before. The prices seemed reasonable, and in, they had a

MORE PAGE 2

Get rid of your spare tire in just 4 WEEKS!

No more battle of the bulging belly. Get a flatter, firmer stomach – fast and easy! **Marie France FOR MEN** gives you a proven effective 4-Week BELLY-BUSTING Program using technologically advanced treatments without workouts, crash diets or surgery!

Fat Mobilization System
The Overall Body-Fat Zapper

Blast those excess fat and pounds for good! **Fat Mobilization System** lets your body burn up to 2,000 calories in just a 25-minute session while you're lying down. It even allows the calorie-burning to continue up to 48 hours after the sessions. Transform from being fat to fit in just a few sessions!

For Men Centre's latest US FDA-approved fat reduction treatment that uses the Zeltiq advanced cooling technology to target fat cells and eliminate them through the body's natural metabolic processes. It's guaranteed to deliver a 22.4% of fat layer reduction in just one session. Get ready to sport fatter, firmer abs!

CoolSculpting
The Beer-Belly Reducer

Here's the deal: Going on crash diets or doing ab exercises won't flatten your thick, bulging belly. The more effective fat-loss solution: **CoolSculpting**.

Physique Inch-Loss
The Firm-Abs Builder

Got a flabby tummy? Not a problem! **Physique Inch-Loss** will firm up your tabs and will build strength in

and tone the abs while you're at rest. A 15-minute session is equivalent to the effect of 225 sit-ups. Guaranteed – you'll keep off those extra inches and get your best toned abs in no time!

More and more men lose their spare tires at Marie France FOR MEN. Jumpstart your own 4-Week Belly-Busting Program today! Call Marie France FOR MEN now at **813-7969** for a FREE private consultation.

Call him Chef Marvin

'My family has been using Knorr cubes from way back,' says the actor and now owner of some 22 restaurants

By Yanjo Baja-Reyes

MARVIN AGUSTIN is taking on a new role as the newest endorser of Knorr cubes. As such, he gets to tease Knorr's chef poster representing the Philippines, and joins a distinguished roster of Knorr chefs, about 200 of them, who encourage people all over the world to use only the best in their dishes.

Agustin, an actor, director, businessman, restaurateur and chef, has become a fixture in the local food scene lately. He took up culinary courses in the International Academy for Culinary Arts and Hotel Management (IACAHM) under Heather Gaudiez, even when he was already operating his various restaurants (several this city).

"I continued my passion for food," says Agustin. "I didn't actually go to culinary school, but had culinary arts as profession, since what I know is cooking. With the help of my partner, friends, I started pulling up more restaurants."

To date, Agustin owns 22 restaurants (previously, including Some Item, Juke and Vibe). Mr. Baconator, Morrison's, Asian-e-Chow, Isumasi, Sobrosan and Oyster Bay. He plans to open eight more before the year ends.

It is he now confident being called a chef?

"I used to be called a lot of things," says Agustin. "But, it was only when I studied culinary arts that people started calling me a chef. Then, I hosted a television food show, 'Kitchen Superstar.' When I did my commercials with Knorr, almost everyone began calling me chef Marvin."

"Confident, no. I think I am. I cook professionally for my restaurants now. But before, I personally tested and developed. I also cook regularly for my family and friends."

Early influences

Agustin credits being in a small house with his parents and his sisters while growing up.

"Anywhere you go in the house, you could see the kitchen," says Agustin. He could smell what his parents were cooking and see how the food was prepared.

"I was the designated lagay-ang (by parents would encourage us to help in the kitchen. Those were my early exposure in the kitchen," he recalls.

After graduating high school in 1996, Agustin traveled to Australia as a waiter. It was here that he was discovered by ABS-CBN. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Though he's been very successful in his three-hat career, Agustin counted his dreams of doing professional cooking and opening his own chain of restaurants.

The Italian celebrity chefs Buddy Boy and Jamie Oliver. He likes Italian, Filipino and Japanese cuisine. He says he's in that level where he can already experiment whatever food is served him. He friends always create for his cuisine, a Spanish-Polish dish of meat and vegetables.

Right now, he's focused on keeping tabs on the consistency of the food served in all his restaurants.

"That's the hardest part of running a restaurant, the consistency," says Agustin, who's a doting dad to twin daughters, age six years old. "You can't be good today, and then the next day when the customer comes again it's a different taste. But so far, we are managing well."

Knorr as partner

Pitch his current story, as vendors know demand to get Agustin as a partner for his products.

"Knorr and Maggi share the same passion for good food," says Jessica Reyes, Knorr brand manager. "He's been using Knorr cubes in his dishes even when he was young. Both professionals and personal, he is a perfect partner for us. He can challenges consumers that he's willing to give up cooking if they don't find the Knorr cubes tastier and become companion to other consuming brands."

For the newest Knorr chef, Marvin shares his expertise with menus and other cooking enthusiasts. He believes in the tasty superiority of Knorr cubes over seasoning powders.

"Real ingredients, that's Knorr. Just been proven by an independent lab test in Europe, which shows Knorr cubes having at least Five times more stated flavor than other cooking aids. The cubes are made from real ingredients," he says.

Knorr cubes offer several variants, such as pork, chicken, beef, shrimp, seasonal, fish and mushroom pairs.

"My family has been using Knorr cubes from way back. We love soups. My dad would cook menus and use Knorr cubes. It's also a primary something that you've been already been using for a long time," says Agustin. "Even [when] we only add cubes into just plain soup, it provides the additional taste and flavor of the real meat."

KNORR mixes are easy to use, quick to dissolve, and add rich, meaty flavor to your everyday soups.

MARVIN Agustin, Kitchenarte Knorr chef ambassador

How to have a lucky kitchen

bedrooms, (relatives of the direction of the head/boss's)."

This is about home kitchen as well as "(number of a businesses where there are cooking appliances)."

GIBOMANCER and feng shui master Mirlo Cudampiano

"The absence of a kitchen or pantry in some floors who deal with services or small numbers handicapped, leaving them seeming only on 50 percent capacity. The secret to boosting their sales it to put a microwave or a small oven hood or burner to somewhere in operating your kitchen for prosperity.

"Everyone has his own lucky microwave kitchen. While there are individual differences, I can give you an average positioning that is generally safe for every one."

The secret to remember in operating your kitchen for prosperity:

"First consider the placement of your kitchen pods"—cooking appliances such as oven, microwave, cooktop, rice cooker.

"Second, from first, repeatedly cook over cooking from work around them. The daily stove should be properly placed in both diets and main kitchens. Only after you've separated those you can resort to the principles of individualized or exclusive kitchen design.

"For the home, cook safely instead the main living stair—the back of your kitchen appliances to the east or toward the window.

"For business, all should be facing the opposite side, west or toward the south.

"For a business, a lucky kitchen, it must be arranged based on the birthday of the owner of the business and not the chief cashier the chief owner is.

"In a house, it should be based on the housebreaker. If he/she is a rooster person, it has to be balanced between both.

"Never point or align the with a water element. Cooking appliances should not be facing any heater, water dispenser or body of water. No example, the sink should not be opposite the toilet, aquarium or swimming pool from screen in the garden.

"The chefs of these [are electronic counter dishwasher or poly quench. Husband to wife, house help to, such other, number to employee, parent to children, children to children.

"All theories should be fixed because when it faces inconsistently, it can have the element.

"In favor of west, for this means white light open mouth. If with up all your finances, makes you bankrupt, not just in business but all facets of your life.

"The best is to mix all theories to north to encourage more cash flow and collection.

"Fire and water don't mix so strong. For a flower, there should be no water feature in the kitchen. Also, no pictures in this table or lunch photos on calendars. Also avoid having blue and black photos (also of women).

"Fire should never face water or the east water. The simple act of putting a microwave on top of refrigerator is a huge no-no. Placement of a personal effect is incorrect, as the distinguishes water.

"The exception to the rule is, you can put water over fire but only if it is a high-pressure burner as 24 hours will resist them.

"Herbs under dominant moon is income generation. Never put any cooking appliances for business on the north (the base of income, finances, career). Doing so means putting fire or burning very intensely where you may find yourself out of job or bankrupt.

"For the home only, never put cooking appliances in the west. This will lead to a lot of frustration in your life; people who borrow money and don't pay, quarrels who never leave home; Counterclash in finances.

"For home and office, never put kitchen appliances in the south—fire. On a few rare, your home or business could burn down.

"To emerge, all of the above rules apply. All cooking appliances should be placed in the center of the room. If such, it just cancels the beauty of all the other placements.

"A kitchen should never be under a toilet and vice versa, never put a kitchen over a septic tank for obvious reasons.

"Never have overhead beams, they accumulate dust and negative[?] counterattack/ pressure—fatigues, migraines and muscle pains. Cover or paint them white.

"Do not use 'mirror cures' or put mirrors in a kitchen as this doubles the trouble. Get bad-luck.

"Arrange all appliances, especially of auction, heat and types that can practically cut up all the good results of excellent feng shui.

"Make sure that in control of the house or office, you first position your cooking appliance based on your Chinese zodiac sign. No number with the forces of nature, all in perfect harmony?"

Master Alden's Aharonn herbal called "Feng Shui Kwan for LIF" available at 0933-8988348

From page C1

table for two by the window on a Friday night. What was wrong with that picture? Had I missed a memo? Would a lone wolf be?

It turned out, actually to be very, very good. My ordered for her mouth but ate all of it anyway. I posted messages to people about the "most" Japanese restaurant we had discovered. We may resolved to know anything about it.

This was somewhat gratifying, because our friends are up-to-date about obscure Korean restaurants opening in the middle of nowhere, so it did not seem likely that their guides' eyes would have failed to notice a huge, brightly lit restaurant at the very entrance of Serendra.

Revamped menu

As it turns out, Hinges is not new; it's old. What's new is that it's Japanese. It was Bellini, but turned Japanese two years ago. Gone with the help of two new Japanese chefs, revamped menu and a few months ago to come up with the occasionally eclectic range of offerings it now has.

This seems counter-intuitive in Manila, where everyone reflexively flocks to new places with a new name and a spanking new interior, even if it turns out to be yet another cookingly familiar extension of a rambling food empire. Remnants of the old menu, poke out among the Japanese dishes, like mine of an old city mingling with the news of a new. Ochre lamps with name designers, for instance, or pinus from a wood-finished.

Big, bold flavors

The Japanese food at Hinges is scrupulously pretty. Delicate—said I love it. It's fun and fresh and playful and is about living chickenens, rather than corpses. The flavors are big and bold rather than subtle and wobbly, which is fine really, since I can appreciate each in its own right.

There was nothing that would keep me away from the novelty of sea-urchin shooters (shots of sushi ingredients). Those work especially well with local sea urchin, which are softer and gloopier (other than Japanese ones are). There are many things one can do—this drawn them in a bowl of butter liquid.

We had pan-seared foie gras with a dab of mango on a sliced loaf. Also lovely stuff.

But the main course, on were we somewhat the "best within," and what can I do describe the opinions of those who have chosen before me? The truth, we matched a bowl of herbs, were delightfully off the beaten and then without the gentle and fabulousness of anything that's this.

We had Dalled to order that the menu said "shooting pertains," so the wife ordered a bowl of soba, which was good (flavorless devoured, so perhaps "shooting pertains" is optimistic for a main course. Ridden than as we just ate as a bowl.

For people who are not as nervous as we were that night, which is probably most people, I would suggest sticking to the safety hangars at the counter. The bill, despite our unintended extravagance, was not bad at all. Not cheap, but not bad.

Not canceptual

I've been recalling why Maggi isn't better known or more successful than it is now, and one reason is that it's not quite clear why the cuisine is as it is. It isn't conceptual. It's not that the menu is long, because sometimes long menus are a sign of a kitchen that's all over the place. It's not that it's short, because sometimes short menus are a sign of a kitchen that's all over the place.

It's not that it's Japanese, because Japanese, Italian, Filipino, Spanish and etc. (a great deal of etc., actually) is on one menu. It's not really Asian, just drawing a menu.

It's like the orange and vanilla of white which composes the Manila diner would not in a month, except remodeled up ingredient subtitle can be found during. It isn't modish or fashionable or new. It's just good food, which, in this city is the only thing it seems enough for a restaurant to survive.

So quickly before it closes and becomes something trendy.

Maggi Japanese Mexican Bar and Grill is at G/F Serendra Complex, Bonifacio High Str., Fort Bgy. Cal 8566678.

Sea-urchin shooters, pan-seared foie gras . . .

SEA-URCHIN [sic] shooters—vodka optional

MAGGI grilled beef ribs, deboned, for sharing

Ilonggo food fest as salute to Batch 2012

CABALEN IS holding the Ilonggo Food Festival as part of its "Salute to the Graduates of 2012" promo.

Among the Ilonggo classics are Chicken Inasal recipe, Binatikolo, chicken inch, lumpia, liver, Guinoad and sweets. Pork Inasal, Inasal na Hito and Bangus with Yellow Rice.

Other offerings are Laing, Dinuguan, Linuwa with Halaan, and Inuvetsoad Glazed Camotes.

The promo will run until April 16.

For all kind of functions from weddings to corporate outings, no wedding, call one of 12 Cabalen branches: #7 Silver Avenue, QC; 3/L, SM Megamall Bridgeway; G/F Sm. Mandaue Avenue, Subangon Road, Mandaue; G/F, Sm. Bacolod Gaisano, San Juan; G/L, Sm. Iloilo, Delgado Street, Iloilo City; G/L, Sm. Lucena Mall, Gomez St., Lucena; G/F, SM Fairview Mall, Quirino Highway, Fairview; Mall Service Supermall, Alabang; Unit 9, Tower de Sta. Rosa, Laguna; G/F, SM City Cebu, The Northwing Area; Cabalen L. Ayala Center, Makati; 2/L, Tiendesitas, Edsa corner North Avenue, Quezon City; G/F, Tayuman cor. Mel Hidalgo, Mel Medal of Valor Avenue, Binondo; and G/F, SM City Clark, Clarkfield, Pampanga.

Call 3726515, 8890888 or 3733814 for catering needs; visit www.cabalen.ph.

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LUPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH. LUIGUE

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE MOTS — BY ELIZABETH HOWARD

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO THE RHINO — BY MARK ABRERA

SEIH — BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK — BY MARK COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Today's New Moon in the partner sector will put yourself before your work in important ways. Work with others and you create a better situation for everyone.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You might feel a bit edgy and nervous today and not know why. There's tension when planetary influences are working down in the subconscious of your chart.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The strongest day for bright thought in the week is here for you. Do you hang out with quality people? Of course, it's important to have more friends, so find it!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Tomorrow the New Moon is high in your chart. This is a wonderful opportunity to think about how the direction in general that you headed when succeed in all?

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) What further education or training could you get to perhaps benefit to enhance your career? Or perhaps, just to enhance the quality of your life?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Have we provided for your every need? Should be encouraged. Time to think and reflect. The call is for? The answer that YOU affects you!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Some new possibilities today. New faces in the neighborhood. Some surprises can spur on your interest in perfect love to bride about how to improve your relationships. What might you do?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Think of how you can improve your resources. Include other people's resources that you can perhaps trade to or attribute to your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) It's important to remember that play, vacations and fun with sports are a vital balance to work. Are you keeping up the balance that you have in your life? Is everything enough?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) What can you do to improve your home environment, relations with family members? Every little effort is a chance to make a difference.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) This is an excellent day (yesterday was the best of year) to think about how to improve your communication with others, especially siblings. Do you listen to others when they speak?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) How are you improving your relationship with your cash flow? Do you want to earn more? Can you get a different job? Come to make money on the side?

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Solution for previous puzzle

7	9	3	2	8	4	6	1	5
6	4	5	3	7	1	9	2	8
1	8	2	6	9	5	3	4	7
3	2	8	9	4	7	5	6	1
4	5	7	8	1	6	2	9	3
9	6	1	5	3	2	8	7	4
2	3	6	4	5	9	7	8	1
8	7	4	1	6	3	1	5	9
5	1	9	7	2	8	4	3	6

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

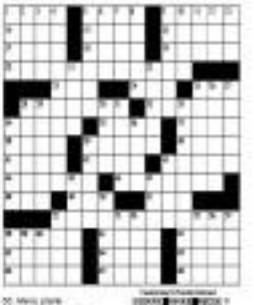
		6					5	
	3		8	1				
				2			4	6
			2					
5		8		9		6		2
					3			
1	2			5				
				3	9		6	
	7					8		

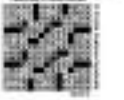
Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Lion's daughter
5. Dull-witted
10. Ancient Egyptians have similar idiom
14. Time not to be wasted
15. "Don't look back in anger" band
16. Comic actor Tilikay
17. Dry, as champagne or sensations
18. ___ Pay (mortgage ID)
19. Jolt suddenly
20. Ancient Egyptian fertility goddess
21. Egyptian deities
23. Ancient Egyptian symbol of life
24. Cordoba
25. Ancient Egyptian sandal-wearers
27. Lawyer's profession
28. Comic actress Lee
29. Cashmere cloth
30. Nefertiti's title
31. A to ___
32. Ancient Egyptian sun deity
34. Late Hispanic
35. Nile's first cataract
36. Nile's first port
37. Land of the Lotus-Eaters
38. Ancient Egyptian writing system
39. Ancient Egyptian
40. Pharaoh's crown
41. Ancient Egyptian
42. Ancient Egyptian
43. Ancient Egyptian
44. Ancient Egyptian
45. Ancient Egyptian
46. Ancient Egyptian
47. Ancient Egyptian
48. Ancient Egyptian
49. Ancient Egyptian
50. Ancient Egyptian
51. Ancient Egyptian
52. Ancient Egyptian
53. Ancient Egyptian
54. Ancient Egyptian
55. Ancient Egyptian
56. Ancient Egyptian
57. Ancient Egyptian
58. Ancient Egyptian
59. Ancient Egyptian
60. Ancient Egyptian
61. Ancient Egyptian
62. Ancient Egyptian
63. Ancient Egyptian
64. Ancient Egyptian
65. Ancient Egyptian
66. Ancient Egyptian
67. Ancient Egyptian
68. Ancient Egyptian
69. Ancient Egyptian
70. Ancient Egyptian
71. Ancient Egyptian
72. Ancient Egyptian
73. Ancient Egyptian
74. Ancient Egyptian
75. Ancient Egyptian
76. Ancient Egyptian
77. Ancient Egyptian
78. Ancient Egyptian
79. Ancient Egyptian
80. Ancient Egyptian
81. Ancient Egyptian
82. Ancient Egyptian
83. Ancient Egyptian
84. Ancient Egyptian
85. Ancient Egyptian
86. Ancient Egyptian
87. Ancient Egyptian
88. Ancient Egyptian
89. Ancient Egyptian
90. Ancient Egyptian
91. Ancient Egyptian
92. Ancient Egyptian
93. Ancient Egyptian
94. Ancient Egyptian
95. Ancient Egyptian
96. Ancient Egyptian
97. Ancient Egyptian
98. Ancient Egyptian
99. Ancient Egyptian
100. Ancient Egyptian

DOWN
1. Ancient Egyptian
2. Ancient Egyptian
3. Ancient Egyptian
4. Ancient Egyptian
5. Ancient Egyptian
6. Ancient Egyptian
7. Ancient Egyptian
8. Ancient Egyptian
9. Ancient Egyptian
10. Ancient Egyptian
11. Ancient Egyptian
12. Ancient Egyptian
13. Ancient Egyptian
14. Ancient Egyptian
15. Ancient Egyptian
16. Ancient Egyptian
17. Ancient Egyptian
18. Ancient Egyptian
19. Ancient Egyptian
20. Ancient Egyptian
21. Ancient Egyptian
22. Ancient Egyptian
23. Ancient Egyptian
24. Ancient Egyptian
25. Ancient Egyptian
26. Ancient Egyptian
27. Ancient Egyptian
28. Ancient Egyptian
29. Ancient Egyptian
30. Ancient Egyptian
31. Ancient Egyptian
32. Ancient Egyptian
33. Ancient Egyptian
34. Ancient Egyptian
35. Ancient Egyptian
36. Ancient Egyptian
37. Ancient Egyptian
38. Ancient Egyptian
39. Ancient Egyptian
40. Ancient Egyptian
41. Ancient Egyptian
42. Ancient Egyptian
43. Ancient Egyptian
44. Ancient Egyptian
45. Ancient Egyptian
46. Ancient Egyptian
47. Ancient Egyptian
48. Ancient Egyptian
49. Ancient Egyptian
50. Ancient Egyptian
51. Ancient Egyptian
52. Ancient Egyptian
53. Ancient Egyptian
54. Ancient Egyptian
55. Ancient Egyptian
56. Ancient Egyptian
57. Ancient Egyptian
58. Ancient Egyptian
59. Ancient Egyptian
60. Ancient Egyptian
61. Ancient Egyptian
62. Ancient Egyptian
63. Ancient Egyptian
64. Ancient Egyptian
65. Ancient Egyptian
66. Ancient Egyptian
67. Ancient Egyptian
68. Ancient Egyptian
69. Ancient Egyptian
70. Ancient Egyptian
71. Ancient Egyptian
72. Ancient Egyptian
73. Ancient Egyptian
74. Ancient Egyptian
75. Ancient Egyptian
76. Ancient Egyptian
77. Ancient Egyptian
78. Ancient Egyptian
79. Ancient Egyptian
80. Ancient Egyptian
81. Ancient Egyptian
82. Ancient Egyptian
83. Ancient Egyptian
84. Ancient Egyptian
85. Ancient Egyptian
86. Ancient Egyptian
87. Ancient Egyptian
88. Ancient Egyptian
89. Ancient Egyptian
90. Ancient Egyptian
91. Ancient Egyptian
92. Ancient Egyptian
93. Ancient Egyptian
94. Ancient Egyptian
95. Ancient Egyptian
96. Ancient Egyptian
97. Ancient Egyptian
98. Ancient Egyptian
99. Ancient Egyptian
100. Ancient Egyptian





Hotel resto along Manila Bay, Old World cuisine by the Pasig

THE INTERIORS of an old hotel has been transformed into what is called today as Modern Classical. An ancestral house has been converted into a restaurant with a nostalgic old-world charm.

Midas Hotel and Casino
2399 Roxas Blvd., tel. 982 8000.
Midas connotes gold. In this hotel, one can order gold in the casino or have a golden experience through the sumptuous meal in the Café.

The building is a familiar landmark until the new owners renamed it. Today it is known as Modern Classical; perhaps to entice pool features. Orange hours. On weekdays 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. to compose the main dining in the lobby.

Midas Café on the second floor is a huge dining place, with lots of mirrors and reminds from where a guest can feed restless soon from all sides of the café, as it's a bit confusing for a diner to find his or her table after going through the buffet. The place is quiet and, if lucky, you could get a table with a view of Manila Bay.

Service—Fast, efficient.

Staff—Accommodating.

They are even willing to mind the lashed bags while curious you feed from the buffet. But it is almost like not staff be every table.

*Suggested picks—*A lavish concoction is likely to complain about the Roast Leg of Lamb, unless the chef has balanced to honest observations of this diner and one other guest. The end part was tough, the meat sauce was "like liquor (perhaps)," said one diner. It was likewise breadsticks and hard to start eating. The Lengua Estofada was delicious, but again, the meat was cut into small pieces, which is the typical for Pasteil. We would have preferred the usual solid slices. The Japanese spread is simple and the dessert are the tour de force, offering Filipino halaman, international cakes etc.

Usual service and guests; more changes are included in the bill. Senior cards are honored.

Rating

Casa Roces
(1233 2F Lanzol St., corner Agoncillo, tel. 7955869)

The Casa Roces house looms, fronting Malacañang Palace, has been converted into a restaurant. On each side of the heavy-romance door is a statue of a cowboy, the familiar logo of the Roces published: Manila Times and Lyond where restaurant was sculpture stands. There are a few fox. There is a small boutique of ladies' accessories on the hotel.

*Dining area—*This materials from what must have been the living quarters of the prominent family. Ambiance is Old World, from the conservative colors, basically gray, of the walls, to tiles, etc. Décor consists of old portraits, including a family grouping, paintings framed the old-fashioned way, and small knickknacks, plus a gleaming chandelier.

*Service—*Needs a lot of improvement.

*Staff—*They welcome you with Spanish greetings. Waitress didn't cast many an eye on servaliers in that language. We are only two made acknowledge's who were not really wearing an tables. They always had their backs to us. They didn't seem to mind the guests, perhaps because we were from classes and not familiar to them.

*Suggested menu—*They are serving dishes that we grew up with in our own ancestral home. But we found they theme of the "Old World" was not very convincing. The Caesar Salad was served almost dry for tastelessness drizzling from which we could not discern any an shower, the Oven-Baked Chicken Adobo hardly had the taste of the vinegar; the Kari-Kari seemingly was prepared with peanut butter as we felt no texture. They seemed to skimp on sauces, the Sapsog was in a tiny, tiny saucer, we had to ask for more.

The tasting game is the Malacañang Tresse Otoo Ste, truly heavenly.

Check the Cake Shop where you can get Cookies and Cream Bubocan at P150 for a pack of 16. There is a good selection of cakes, chocos, etc. they give you your tokens; goodies to pay bags with an image of Chino Roces and an imprint that says, Café Chino.

Service charge and government taxes are added to the bill. Senior cards are honored.

Rating

EATING INDEX

Poor — Good — Excellent

THE QUIET DINER
RESTOS AT A GLANCE

HENY SISON CULINARY SCHOOL

Let our kitchen be your children's playground.

Summer Kitchen Fun

Now Open!
COOKING BOOT CAMP FOR YOUNG CHEFS

ESSENTIAL SERIES

Now & More Interesting Daily LIFESTYLE CLASSES

HACKER
GRAND
FOUR WINDS
GOLDEN ACRES, INC.

Finally, a place to satisfy my craving for chicken rice

Any new place here that offers Singaporean cuisine, I just have to try

ALMOST EVERY day I routinely have a heavy lunch before noon to be fully digested by the time Sydney badminton on the afternoon. I need to load up on the energy I'll need for the tournament.

Almost every day, my plan is to gorge myself for lunch and skip dinner to make up. As I tell readers, the best time to plan a diet is when you're full, satisfied and guilty. Trust me, you cannot imagine the determination one has at that point — not all the hunger pangs kick in and you're hungry again.

After badminton, my everyday drive from the country club to my home in the Kalayaan Avenue area is like a culinary gauntlet. That street is flooded with all kinds of restaurants. My favorite begins when I cross Ateneo Ilaig near UBeat, then past the row of dining eateries along White Plains and the homestretch, all the way past Eton Ridge.

My running betrays me and speaks sweet nothings to me, letting me mow with heavy appetite. Yung Chow Fried Rice is my breaking-the-promise. I had just made a few hours back. I get a respite only when I reach the overpass just before Ateneo.

Then, as I descend the bridge headed toward UP, the left side starts beckoning to me again with all those bright signages calling me to stop for a little bite.

Lately, Daily Queens (Silly Bar, Silkroad and Jolesta's Magnate) has have become an Achilles heel. Just now, as I write this, drinking about all those delectably tempting desserts, I find myself smiling loved-sick Puppy.

Unlike drivers who almost get into an accident while driving and texting, my close calls have been from looking at restaurants as I drive by.

Chicken rice

Since my last trip to Singapore, I have been dreaming about its food. Any new place here that offers Singaporean cuisine, I just have to try. Of course with Hainanese Chicken. I don't expect much since the quality of the chicken in Manila is different. Chicken in Singapore is much tastier, with a hot sweet oil, thus making it tenderer and juicier than our local variety. But with some of the ingredients like rice, desserts and noodles, I do compare.

For the past few months, I have been scouting the opening of this new place along Kartipunan division near Blue Ridge. Its name as I near the name, The Chicken Rice Shop. I knew this had to be connected to Singaporean or Malaysian cuisine. I eagerly awaited the opening since they put up the sign, and I finally tried the new place just over a week ago.

I went alone first, then we're back with my family. Here are the dishes we ordered: Wings, Yolk-on-top Egg, Honey Barbeque, Pork Chop Hainanese Chicken Rice, Pak Chee Veggies, Laksa, Chendol, the Soya Drink.

You must have the Chicken Rice. They also offer it roasted. The chicken itself is not like Boon Tong Kee of Singapore, but it's tender and has the right proportion of fat and but hinth are very good. It has the aroma of pandan and the sauces complement it.

I am used to eating this dish with chew sauces in Chicken Rice Shop, they give only two. The chili and ginger sauce. Ask for the sweet sauce and the light gravy with Chow three sauces and dab it all over the chicken.

I described the tofu with egg, which I like because of the runny sauce, plus this dish is not fattening.

The Laksa is authentic tasting, with shrimp, a mildly spiced curry broth, noodles and fish balls. Sarap!

I wasn't too crazy about the Lime Juice with Champon dough. Separately, lime juice and shampoo are good. Together, well.

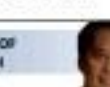
With the warm weather approaching, you should have the Chendol. It's refreshing. This to me is the best Singaporean dessert. It is shaved ice, topped with strings of green-colored sweets, with plam sugar syrup, beans and condensed milk. Heavenly and light.

I also loved their Chilled Soy Milk. The third Heavy Soft with Dry Noodles was okay too.

My future cravings will definitely put up an arduous struggle as I go through this culinary gauntlet. Check them out!

Visit wendydema.blogspot.com; Twitter @wendydema

WORD OF MOUTH



Wendy Dalao

Wagashi: The art of traditional Japanese sweets at The Podium

Three Japanese—Aoki, Keisuke Yoshikazu, Noriyuki Miyabe, and Naoya Nakanori demonstrated how to make wagashi or traditional sweets at The Podium.

(L-R) Mr. Shuji Takatori, Director of Japan Foundation, Manila, and Mr. Mac Mijares, Third Secretary of the Japan Information and Culture Center, Manila

Japanese traditional sweets or wagashi require precision, attention to detail, and patience in order to perfect it.

Japanese traditional sweets or wagashi are best paired with green tea while eating it to balance the sweetness of the wagashi.

The three chefs, Keisuke Yoshikazu, Naoya Nakanori, and Noriyuki Miyabe with Center for Culinary Arts (CCA) students and teachers at the wagashi workshop at The Podium.

7-ELEVEN PREMIUM SALADS. Convenience store chain 7-Eleven has expanded its range of quality quick-serve product offerings with the launch of 7-Fresh Premium Salads. The two-in-one chicken favorites are the 7-Fresh Chicken Salad (P99.75), a healthy combination of apples, grapes, pineapple, romaine lettuce, carrots and iceberg lettuce with Caesar vinaigrette dressing; and 7-Fresh Continental Salad (Eastern Style), consisting of lettuce, carrots, cabbages, Chinese lettuce and shredded chicken with thousand island dressing. The salads' main ingredients are guaranteed fresh and sourced only from approved suppliers and grown under strict, good agricultural practices. More available in 7,700 convenience stores, 7-Fresh Premium Salads are the brand's response to consumers' growing demand for healthier yet reasonably priced meal options. For more information, visit www.7-eleven.com.ph.

ENTERTAINMENT

Edito Barrios-G. Velarde

Mobile Alert: Text INQ ENTERTAINMENT to 4467 | Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment | E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Twitter feed: @inquirer_ent Text message: 09175739455 to 4467

'Inda' swims to Fribourg

ABSOLUTAbs Jr.'s "Inda (Fable of the Fish)" will compete at the 25th Fribourg Film Festival in Switzerland (March 24 to 31). "Inda" has been to festivals in Busan, Toronto, Hong Kong, Kerala, Nantes, Dubai, Goteborg and Singapore. The Fribourg site says: "Inda" uses "an extraordinary blend of magical realism and documentary precision ... a riveting, modern fable of faith, love, and hope."

Rayard San Diego Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

TEARFUL Stephanie Bustamante dedicates award to her family, Cinemalaya and the country —JOEY

USING her iPhone, Eugene Domingo takes a snapshot with costumer Andy Lee. —JOEY

'Jekyll & Hyde' a must-see

BACKSTORY

Lea Salonga

MONDAY night last week, I headed to Gallager Greenbelt to see an early musical rehearsal at Repertory Philippines' production of "Jekyll & Hyde."

The show was in its developmental stages. Costumes were incomplete and not yet distressed; not everyone was using makeup; wigs were being evaluated; lighting needed to be focused and properly cued; entrances and exits for the cast were not refined and fixed; and, the scoring and tempo of certain songs needed to be tightened, and other musical concerns needed to be addressed as well. But the potential was decidedly there.

Brilliant as Jekyll

In this rehearsal mix, Ava Pangan played the role of Dr. Henry Jekyll who, after an experiment goes wrong, becomes the homicidal and psychopathic Edward Hyde. Michael Williams, who showcases in the role with Ava, had done a run through earlier in the day and, unsurprisingly, had gone home to rest.

The vocal demands of playing Jekyll/Hyde would probably equal that of Jose Mulipas in "Les Miz," complicated by a split personality disorder!

Understanding the performances were the youthful voices of director Hiroshi Lanzderges Sako and her assistant director Ikon Zamora, as they exchanged comments over the song of one actor (he no longer exists), how John Batadlis's lighting design turned out to be gorgeous, and how another costume did not look quite right.

What seemed to be lively in place were the following: Jen's Hyde was brilliant; I look forward

JOEY ALCAZ

How HK won them

Two Pinay actresses, that is, before they won HK

By Rayard San Diego Jr.

A FEW MINUTES before winning presidential choice favorite actress at the 6th Golden Pillar Awards (GPA), Filipino comedienne Eugene Domingo had gotten comfortable with the idea of losing.

"I was [quite content] with the hospitality extended by the organizers," she told Inquirer in an e-mail.

Domingo (who won for Maker Abaya's "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank") and fellow Filipinos, filmmaker Cristina Buenaventura (best supporting actress winner for Ley Arsenas' "Hilot") and Chris Martinez (best screenplay nominee for "Segrio"), were wowed like big stars as the seven held in Hong Kong on Monday.

Her hotel suite was "super," Domingo said. "They put me in the Upper House at the Pacific Place in Quarrenay. It was very modern, but it also had oriental elements like wood and stone. My room was like royal, the view was majestic!"

Very hospitable

"The organizers were very hospitable," Buenaventura added. "My husband (actor Nonie Buencamino) and I were billeted at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. We got free hats and makeup services for the awards night and press call."

The actress recalled a touching story: "A Filipina based in Hong Kong offered me free lodging, after sending (in the previous buccon) about my reluctance to attend the awards show because I was unemployed." The ASF took care of the couple's plane tickets and hotel accommodations.

It was her first time in Hong Kong, Buenaventura said. Like any working mother, she still keen on traveling abroad, "unless it's for work."

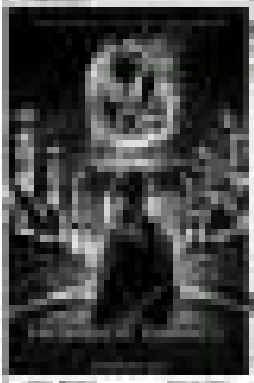
As Buenaventura said in her tearful acceptance speech, her career took a back seat as she prioritized raising her four children—Delphinus, 21; Ocelot, 19; Jose, 13; Julia, 12.

It was a holiday for the Buenaventura trio.

Carla still a Kapuso

'Jekyll & Hyde' a must-see

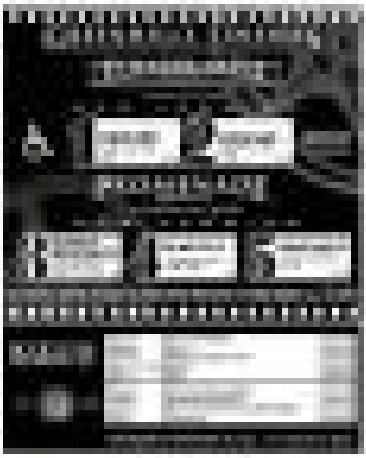
NOMINATING
MOVIE WO@LD



GET A CHANCE TO

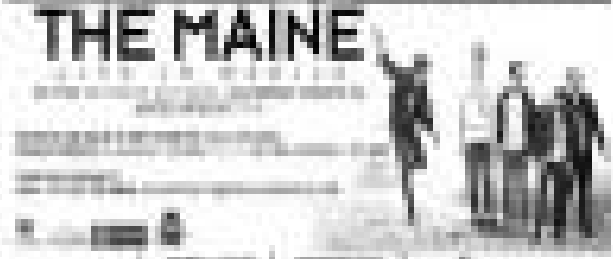
How HK

Intelligence is in the heart



GET READY FOR
MUPPET DOMINATION

CINEMA



YUM ang the best!

Always Affordelicious ang best-tasting and only langhap-sarap burger value meal.

62 ALWAYS AFFORDELICIOUS

YUM Value Meal

JENNIFER Lawrence plays the strong central character.

An epic film that feels intimate

'The Hunger Games' has a dark, satirical message

THE FIRST film adaptation of Suzanne Collins' best-selling trio of novels opened yesterday amid great fanfare and expectations.

Fans of Collins' novels will be ecstatic with the oral trappings of Gary Ross' film—a mix of decadent costumes and architecture, and harsh, unforgiving concepts.

Jennifer Lawrence plays the strong central character, Katniss Everdeen. Moviegoers who saw her Oscar-nominated performance in 2010's "Winter's Bone" will recognize the same unyielding warrior persona—her natural beauty, instincts, and humanity beyond her years. Yet at her core is a youthful energy and vulnerability to which the target audience of books fans can relate.

Ross may seem an unlikely choice to direct a movie about a futuristic fascist world in which teenagers must fight each other to the death in an exploitative display of national loyalty and pride. His past work, after all, includes such clean, charming, and uplifting films as "Dave," "Pleasantville," and "Seabiscuit."

Almost like the novel

Those worries were based on high-concept premises, and "Seabiscuit" things to say about politics and society. In "The Hunger Games," the darkly satirical message is unmistakable.

Not surprisingly, the script adheres closely to Collins' novel, as she executive produced with Ross and Billy Rox. But it does emancipate some of the subplots that give the book its greatest emotional heft. It also softens the violence of the games themselves, reportedly to secure a PG-13 rating.

Still, "The Hunger Games" emerges the stillbirth from of being an epic film that feels intimate at the same time.

A post-apocalyptic version of North America has been divided into 12 districts. Katniss lives with her widowed mother and younger sister, Prim, in District 12, known for its poverty and coal mining. She is an expert hunter with a bow and arrows, and spends her days seeking food for her family with her best friend, the handy Gale (Liam Hemsworth).

Every year, a teenage boy and girl from each district are selected randomly at the "Reaping" and sent to the capitol, an elite Capitol, where they are made over, trained and prepared to fight each other until one is left standing.

Every manner of competition is broadcast breathlessly to the nation, with viewers betting on their favorites, while contestants manipulate their surroundings in the style of "The Truman Show."

Elio Barsley, upcoming Swedish indie hit, Katniss is an even more realistic version of Cinderella Wade ("Sucker Punch"), while Stanley Tucci—as the host—is Barsley-

and in a most wicked blue hairdo.

Hyde's name is called at the Reaping, but Katniss volunteers in her stead. The dramatic scene is emotionally engaging and the characters do not overplay their parts. Katniss' counterpart is Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson), the baker's sweet, but timid son. Together they receive sustaining from the frequently indifferent Haymitch (Woody Harrelson), the last winner from District 12.

Two more coming

There is never any question as to whether Katniss will win—there are two more books waiting to be made into movies after this one—so the challenge comes from maintaining a sense of tension and dimension in this dystopian world, as competitors drop off one by one.

Ross and his cast achieve this with a film that runs nearly two and a half hours, but never drags and does not overstay its welcome. AP

Ayala Malls

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: THE MUPPETS (2D)
2: THE HUNGER GAMES
3: THE HUNGER GAMES
4: CORAZON: ANG UNANG ASAWANG
5: THE LORAX / JOHN CARTER
6: THE HUNGER GAMES (2D)
7: MIRROR, MIRROR

GREENBELT 5
1: MIRROR, MIRROR
2: THE HUNGER GAMES

GREENBELT 2
1: THE HUNGER GAMES
2: THE HUNGER GAMES (3D)
3: THE LORAX, MIRROR, MIRROR
4: THE MUPPETS (2D)
5: THE HUNGER GAMES

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: THE HUNGER GAMES
2: THE HUNGER GAMES (3D)
3: THE MUPPETS (2D)
4: THE LORAX, MIRROR, MIRROR
5: THE HUNGER GAMES

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: THE HUNGER GAMES (2D)
2: THE HUNGER GAMES
3: THE MUPPETS (2D)
4: MIRROR, MIRROR

MARQUEE
1: THE HUNGER GAMES
2: THE MUPPETS (3D)
3: MIRROR, MIRROR
4: THE HUNGER GAMES

MARKET! MARKET!
1: THE HUNGER GAMES (2D)
2: MIRROR, MIRROR
3: THE MUPPETS (3D)
4: THE LORAX (3D)
5: THE HUNGER GAMES
6: CORAZON: ANG UNANG ASAWANG
7: JOHN CARTER

TRINOMA
1: THE LORAX / JOHN CARTER
2: THE HUNGER GAMES
3: THE MUPPETS (3D)
4: THE HUNGER GAMES (3D)
5: CORAZON: ANG UNANG ASAWANG
6: MIRROR, MIRROR
7: THE HUNGER GAMES

ABREEZA
1: THE MUPPETS (2D)
2: THE HUNGER GAMES (2D)
3: THE HUNGER GAMES
4: MIRROR, MIRROR

For ticket reservations or purchases,* call SureSeats @ 2910 (for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com

Movie schedules may change without prior notice.

For verification, please call 729-7777.

*Reservations open to all SureSeats users. Purchase open to All Pass cardholders only.

MOVIE SPECIAL

LOVE to WATCH!

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
TRINOMA
BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARQUEE
ABREEZA

MALL SPECIAL

BE CAPTIVATED BY THIS BRITISH POP-CLASSICAL QUARTET LIVE!

Glorietta Greenbelt Trinoma MARQUEE Abreeza

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2048